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55p

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CHERRIES 1 HARTLEPOOL 1
Tubbs gets Cherries a draw

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**Hants in
CB40 final
thriller**

**Full report and pics:
Pages 32-33**

GUNNED DOWN...

*Six-shooting Gunners expose
Saints' defensive frailties
with clinical attacking display*

ARSENAL 6 SOUTHAMPTON 1

SAINTS are without a Premier League point after four games following a 6-1 humbling at Arsenal.

Nigel Adkins' men were overwhelmed in the first half of the club's first visit to the Emirates Stadium, with the Gunners scoring three goals in a seven minute spell to

effectively end the game as a contest before the half time whistle.

The defeat makes it four losses from four for Saints who now have a massive game against Aston Villa at St Mary's up next.

**Full report: Pages 2-3
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SHELL SHOCKED:
Adam Lallana can't believe his side's capitulation against Arsenal.
Pic by Matt Watson

TERRY PAINE



**Saints legend's
EXCLUSIVE column**
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NON-LEAGUE



Six pages of non-league news
Starts page 20

LONDON 2012



The lasting legacies of the games
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Saints Spotlight

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ARSENAL 6 SAINTS 1: Saints' frail backline

NIGEL'S MEN BY ARSENAL

Adam Leitch

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CHIEF SPORTS REPORTER



SAINTS are without a Premier League point after four games following a 6-1 humbling at Arsenal.

Nigel Adkins' men were overwhelmed in the first half of the club's first visit to the Emirates Stadium, with the Gunners scoring three goals in a seven minute spell to effectively end the game as a contest before the half time whistle.

The defeat makes it four losses from four for Saints who now have a massive game against Aston Villa at St Mary's up next.

Saints made a bright start to the game with James Ward-Prowse the first to get a shot away after a through ball from Adam Lallana but he saw his effort blocked.

Up the other end Lukas Podolski drilled a 25-yard shot at goal but it was straight down the middle and Kelvin Davis was able to save.

Arsenal came close again as Santi Cazorla nicked a shot over the bar after Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain had got down the

right and whipped in a low cross.

The Gunners were really looking to play a lot down their right side with Oxlade-Chamberlain running at Danny Fox every time he got the ball.

But when Arsenal made the breakthrough after just 11 minutes it came down the left.

Podolski robbed Schneiderlin of the ball in the centre of midfield, pushed on and quickly set Kieran Gibbs in down the left.

His low drilled shot was saved by Kelvin Davis and broke into the centre of the six yard box, where Jos Hooiveld was unable to sort out his feet quickly enough and prevent the ball hitting his shin and dribbling into his own net for 1-0. Saints were fortunate not

to fall further behind on 20 minutes when Kelvin Davis came for a corner but spilt the ball, Francis Coquelin lifted it back in and Per Mertesacker's header was at a nice height for the Saints keeper who held on diving to his left.

Arsenal were threatening to run riot and Gervinho was the next to get in a header, but his went over the bar.

For Saints it was a case of trying to weather the storm and keep the deficit to just one to keep themselves in the game and hope for better things to come.

Gervinho was obviously feeling confident as he had another shot on 25 minutes that whistled just wide.

Saints made a first change after just 28 minutes with Maya Yoshida coming on for

his debut and Hooiveld coming off with a calf injury.

It didn't take long for Arsenal to add another though, with the score becoming 2-0 on 31 minutes.

Steven Davis gave away a central free kick 25 yards out which Podolski struck left footed off of a two step run up.

He got it up and over the wall and Kelvin Davis was not able to get across to his right quick enough to get anything on it.

It got even worse four minutes later as Arsenal made it 3-0.

Yoshida got sucked out of position to allow Gervinho to turn in-between him and Fox and get in behind, Mikel Arteta measured a chipped ball into his path and the striker drilled a low half volley past Kelvin Davis at the near post.

And that wasn't the end of the scoring as yet another flew into the Saints net on 37 minutes.

Gervinho played the ball to Gibbs out on the left and his low first time cross was met by Nathaniel Clyne, who attempted to clear but only saw his sliced slash at the ball fly towards his own goal and beat the helpless Kelvin Davis at the near post.

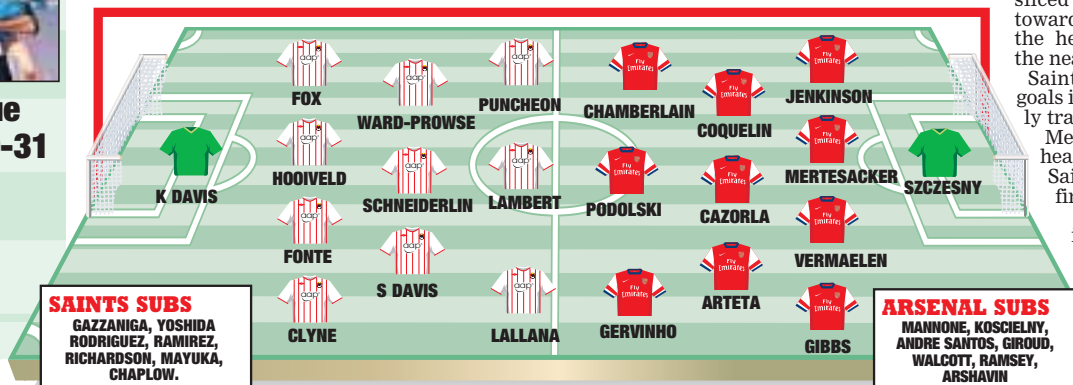
Saints had shipped three goals in six minutes to suddenly trail 4-0.

Mertesacker put one more header over the bar before Saints were gifted a goal in first half stoppage time.

Jason Puncheon lifted in a cross from the right that looked easy pickings for Arsenal keeper Wojciech Szczesny but he inexplicably spilt the ball under no pressure at all and it presented Fox with a simple chance to volley home to make the

scoreline 4-1 at half time.

Saints made a half time change with Gaston Ramirez making his Saints bow in place of Steven Davis with the new man playing in the hole as Adkins tinkered with his formation slightly. Ramirez got in



NIGEL ADKINS decided to name an unchanged side to the team that ran Manchester United so close before the international break for another difficult trip to Arsenal. New signings Maya

TEAM NEWS

Yoshida and Gaston Ramirez were both amongst the subs after returning from long trips playing for their countries.

Also on the bench was

Emmanuel Mayuka who had his first taste of Saints action as a late sub against United.

Danny Fox was ruled fit to start after having an injection in his groin earlier in the week.

TURN TO PAGE 48 FOR TODAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS

Saints Spotlight

is ruthlessly torn apart by free-scoring Gunners

ARE BLOWN AWAY SIX-SHOOTERS...



BATTLE: Jason Puncheon is taken on by Arsenal's Francis Coquelin.

an early effort at goal from outside the area but it was straight at Szczesny who duly saved.

The Uruguayan also caused a problem as he dragged a shot from distance towards the far post where Rickie Lambert slid in to meet it but his connection took the ball wide.

Oxlade-Chamberlain thought he might notch up a goal against his old club as Gervinho got to the left by-line and attempted to pick him out but the cut back took a slight nick and just cannoned off the former Saint who could only watch the ball go wide.

Puncheon unleashed an effort on 67 minutes from outside the area but it went well over the bar.

Arsenal made a first change with Aaron Ramsey replacing Coquelin.

The game was certainly a lot

less eventful than in the first half.

Arsenal had taken their foot off the gas a little and the change in formation and personnel from Saints had seen them start to keep their share of the possession.

However, the Gunners were always a danger and bagged a fifth goal on 71 minutes.

Ramsey got on the outside of Clyne and flicked a shot across Kelvin Davis with the outside of his boot. It cannoned back off the far post and Gervinho was there to turn home from close range.

Kelvin Davis stopped it getting any worse with a strong save to turn away a fierce drive from Oxlade-Chamberlain.

Arsenal made a double change with Theo Walcott and Olivier Giroud coming on for Gervinho and Podolski. And

Saints responded with their final change with Jay Rodriguez coming on for Lambert.

Ramirez continued to look lively and drifted off to collect the ball, turned inside and fired wide from 20 yards.

But it was Arsenal who had the last laugh as they bagged another goal with two minutes remaining.

Tomas Vermaelen's shot was parried by Kelvin Davis and the ball broke kindly for Walcott and the former Saint guided a side footed effort into the net from 12 yards out.

Puncheon did force Szczesny into a save before Kelvin Davis made a sprawling stop to keep out Oxlade-Chamberlain again but when the whistle went it was a convincing 6-1 win for the Gunners with Saints still searching for a point back in the top flight.



ABOVE: James Ward-Prowse goes close for Saints.



LEFT: Ex-Saint Theo Walcott is congratulated after netting Arsenal's sixth.

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TERRY PAINE'S EXCLUSIVE COLUMN: PAGE 7

Saints Spotlight



GOAL: Danny Fox's consolation strike for Saints on the stroke of half-time.



GOAL: Nathaniel Clyne puts the ball past Kelvin Davies for an own goal.



CELEBRATE: Arsenal's Keiran Gibbs celebrates after his cross was turned in by Jos Hooiveld.

New boys a baptism

Gordon Simpson

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SPORTS REPORTER

THE reinforcements have arrived for Saints, but they could do little to help at Arsenal.

Supporters got a first glimpse of club-record signing Gaston Ramirez, as well as Maya Yoshida, at the Emirates Stadium this afternoon.

By the time £12m forward Ramirez had made it onto the pitch, though, the visiting fans would have been forgiven for already having averted their gaze.

Arsenal swarmed over their opponents from the opening whistle, racing into a 4-0 lead that was no unfair reflection of proceedings, before Wojciech Szczesny gifted Saints a goal to at least give Nigel Adkins' side something to cling to at half-time.

Ramirez was introduced at the break, with the visitors already chasing a lost cause.

He displayed some flashes of his impressive ability, swiping the ball away from Kieran Gibbs on the edge of the area, before skidding a left foot shot into the arms of Szczesny.

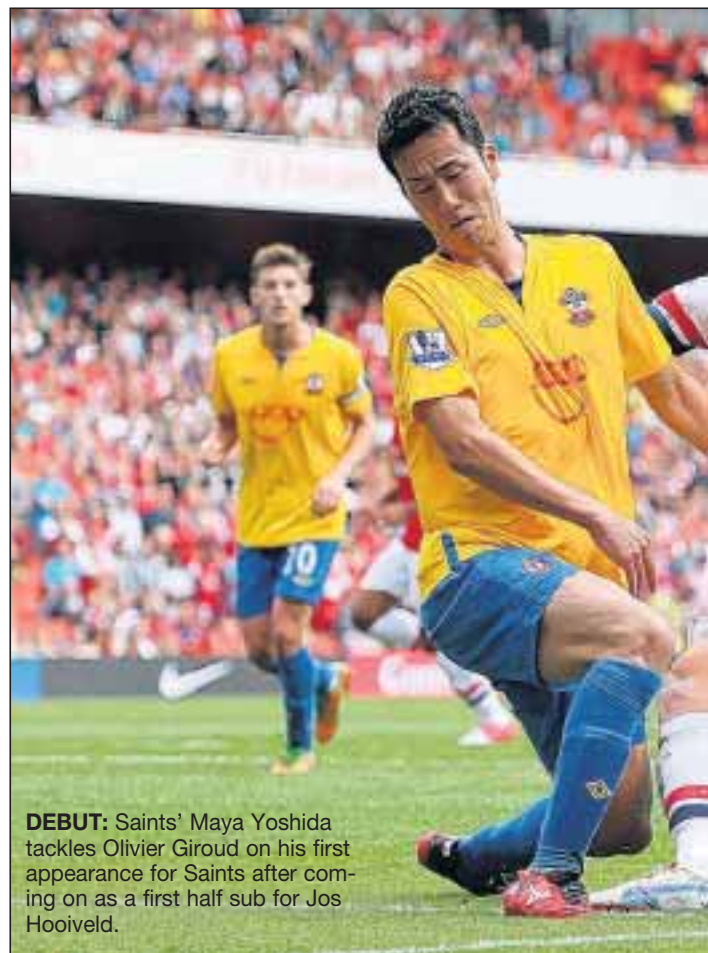
The Uruguayan tried his luck from distance shortly afterwards, and nearly got extremely fortunate, dragging a weak shot straight into the path of Rickie Lambert at the back post, but the striker could only slide in and divert the ball wide.

The close control and the manner in which the rangy Ramirez appears to almost glide across the turf certainly gave cause for some modicum of encouragement.

But there was little else positive for the visitors to grasp on to, as they were ripped to shreds by the Gunners' attack.

Questions will certainly be asked now as to why so much has been invested on the squad in attacking areas, while rather less has been ploughed in at the back.

Arsenal's speed and technical



DEBUT: Saints' Maya Yoshida tackles Olivier Giroud on his first appearance for Saints after coming on as a first half sub for Jos Hooiveld.

ability was so overwhelming.

Yoshida certainly had a rocky start to life in a Saints' shirt.

Sent on in the 28th minute to replace Jos Hooiveld, who was forced off with a calf injury, Saints were already 1-0 down due to the Dutchman's own goal.

The Japan international's first touch then saw him slice a routine clearance behind for a corner.

After Lukas Podolski curled in a sublime free-kick, Yoshida was

exposed by Gervinho, who spun in behind him, latched on to Mikel Arteta's through ball and blasted past Kelvin Davis. 3-0.

The fourth arrived as the unfortunate Nathaniel Clyne diverted Gibbs' delivery past his keeper, before Danny Fox pounced as Szczesny dropped Jason Puncheon's cross.

The goal was the only bright moment of the day for any of the Saints back line.

It at least gave the visiting fans

SEE MONDAY'S ECHO FOR MORE SAINTS REACTION

Saints Spotlight

treated to of fire...



a bit more oomph in their chorus of "We're going to win 5-4".

Saints certainly had a better grip of the game in the second half, but that might have been as much to do with the hosts taking their foot off the gas as any serious improvement from Adkins' men.

As if to ram home that point, Arsenal stepped on the accelerator in the closing stages.

Gervinho tapped home the fifth, after Aaron Ramsey had skipped

past Clyne and hit the post. Davis had to make a good save to deny St Mary's old boy Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, who was a menace throughout.

But the Saints alumni couldn't be kept out entirely, as substitute Theo Walcott slammed home a sixth. Saints' academy graduate chose not to celebrate against his old side.

Fitting really, since there was little for anyone with a Saints' connection to cheer here.

Boss stays positive despite six of the best

NIGEL Adkins admitted his side gave Arsenal the ball too cheaply at times and were punished for it as they were routed 6-1 at the Emirates Stadium.

The defeat to the Gunners means it is four defeats from four back in the top flight for Saints but Adkins remains upbeat.

The Saints boss, pictured, said: "I thought we actually started the first five minutes all right, where we actually kept good possession of the ball.

"That was one of things we looked to do because we know Arsenal keep the ball better than anybody in the division.

"But giving the ball away cheaply probably led to the first goal.

"If you give the ball away anywhere it gives the opposition an upper hand.

"We will analyse the goals ourselves and there is probably things we think we could have done better on."



GOAL: Gervinho scores his team's third at the Emirates today.



OWN GOAL: Jos Hooiveld puts the ball into his own net.



CHASE: Rickie Lambert does battle with Arsenal's Thomas Vermaalen.

MORE SAINTS NEWS ONLINE AT: www.dailyecho.co.uk

BEAUTIFUL SOUTH

BY DAREN WHEELER

Well done for picking our Adam. Now, Roy, what about Rickie Lambert ...?

WITH no domestic top flight games, our attention this week turned to international football.

Could the national sides maintain the Olympic feel good factor?

Of course they couldn't, but there was enough in the win and the draw to give us all that damned faint hope that better days are around the corner.

Roy Hodgson's team selection may be the most important one in years, for no other reason than the inclusion of Adam Lallana in the squad.

On a day that Peter Crouch effectively banished himself of the England squad, it was refreshing to see Adam get the call up.

Hodgson had apparently been monitoring Lallana for some time and had looked at him as prospective transfer target when at Fulham and West Brom.

It does, however, make you wonder why it took three games in the Premier League for Lallana to get that England call up?

Is this country so obsessed with football league status when it comes to the national side?

Did Hodgson suddenly see something in those three games that gave him a "road to Damascus" moment and realise that this young Southampton footballer had what it takes.

Or was it that he couldn't include a Championship player without suffering ridicule?

It brings us back to a subject I raised a few months ago in regards to Rickie Lambert.

We all have plastic football fan friends.

You know the type. They might possess a replica top for a top six side but you know they've never seen a live game in their life and they probably couldn't name their club's four stands for love nor money.

If you had asked your plastic mate about Rickie Lambert playing for England, chances are you'd be roundly ridiculed.

How could a Championship player possibly play for England?

They'd have no doubt told you how Andy Carroll would be a better bet, conveniently forgetting that Lambert's goalscoring record at Championship level completely eclipsed Carroll's.

They'll no doubt have never seen Rickie play, they've probably not even seen Carroll play, but why let that stand in the way of an argument?

The truth is that the only difference between Andy Carroll and Rickie Lambert, apart from age, is one full season in the Premiership.

Lambert is already amongst the top goal scorers in the Premiership.



RICHLY DESERVED: Adam Lallana trains with the England squad ahead of Tuesday's game against Ukraine.

Providing he plays regularly, the smart money is on him scoring 15 goals this season, more than Carroll scored for Newcastle in his first season in the top flight.

You're either a natural goal scorer or you're not and at every level he's played Rickie Lambert has performed week in, week out.

For my money, there's no finer goal scorer in the country.

Rickie Lambert scores goals, it's as simple as that.

Along with Norwich, Saints had the most Englishmen in the starting line up for the last round of Premier League games.

Manchester City had three, Manchester United had two and Wigan didn't have any.

You might argue that stat might show our weaknesses.

I'd counter it by saying that Saints are leading the way forward.



Our Academy is one of the best in the country, if not the best, and there was every possibility that this week's international games could have seen four former Academy players involved with Lallana, Walcott, Oxlade Chamberlain

and Bale.

Lallana's inclusion is a massive boost for Saints, for no other reason than it shows that you don't have to play for a top six side to fulfil your international ambitions.

It also is a massive compliment towards everything Nigel Adkins and Nicola Cortese are planning.

That despite what current trends are showing, the way forward is with homegrown players.

Is this the first tentative step towards a bright new future for England? Of course not. The moment any player from a less glamorous club screws up we'll be back to the usual suspects.

But you can't help but think that for England to move forward as a nation, you need to have a mix of desire and ability.

I've yet to see that raw passion to play for your country in so many players since the Premier League began, and I doubt I will do for quite a while.

We'll no doubt get suckered in by a few wins and yet again start believing that against all odds, and form guides and common sense, England can win something.

In the meantime I'll just take huge pride in the fact Adam Lallana got what he so richly deserved...

Now Roy, about Rickie Lambert....

Paine's World

The Saints legend's **EXCLUSIVE** column on all things football



Hodgson's realising difficulty of his task



AFTER cantering to a 5-0 win in Moldova, Roy Hodgson and England have come to realise that Group H in the World Cup qualifiers may not be the pushover everyone expected when the draw was made.

Ukraine showed their mettle with a satisfying 1-1 draw at Wembley in midweek and looked dangerous opponents.

Throw in Poland, a team that have caused England problems in the past, and it suggests the margins for success have narrowed.

I would also take issue with Hodgson's suggestion that England, apart from the first 15 minutes, dominated proceedings against Ukraine.

I know I am a long way away in South Africa, but from where I was sitting this was definitely not the case in the first 45 minutes.

England lacked conviction and for long periods it was an uninspired slog.

Granted, Hodgson had correctly stated that England were short of at least ten players due to illness and injury, which meant the inexperienced Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain and Tom Cleverley, who dominated proceedings against Moldova, were expected to produce the goods against Ukraine.

Unfortunately, I thought they looked exactly what they are.

Although talented, Oxlade-Chamberlain is still a work in progress.

Cleverley, who had started just eight Premier League games, was being compared to Barcelona's Cesc Fabregas. How ridiculous.

Fabregas, a World Cup and European Championship win-

ner, and a veteran of more than 260 games for Arsenal, is player of genuine class in world football.

Such comparisons are extremely premature and will do the Manchester United player no favours.

Having watched Cleverley against Southampton, I came away with the impression that he is a useful player, but I expected a bit more from the 23-year-old.

Of course, England should take some credit for coming from behind to snatch a draw.

Yevgeni Konoplianka's brilliant opening goal from 25 yards had put Ukraine on the front foot.

A dubious decision had earlier robbed Jermain Defoe of an goal and further

chances were made and missed, with England hitting the post on three other occasions before the ever-reliable Frank Lampard scored the all-important penalty to earn a point, which I believe was a real bonus after playing so poorly.

The way Ukraine celebrated after the match showed that they realised this was a big result for them, and with a little luck that they may have had more than just the one point.

England's next qualifier is on October 12, when they host minnows San Marino, who were beaten 6-0 at home by Montenegro on Tuesday.

Four days later, England travel to Poland, who drew 2-2 with Montenegro before beating Moldova 2-0.

While England will have no problems with San Marino, a trip to Poland could be difficult and a loss would put further strain on Hodgson's side.

Although, by the October dates, all the missing players should hopefully be fit and healthy.

Arsenal have to now face the facts

IN the modern game, there is very little room for sentimentality. Yet we are told that the Arsenal board are to offer Arsene Wenger an extension to his current deal.

The 62-year-old, who is under contract until 2014, hasn't won a major trophy since the 2005 FA Cup and, unfortunately, hasn't been able to find a winning solution to the problem.

In an era where winning is everything, Wenger's ability to finish in the top four and qualify for the Champions League

seems to be a priority, rather than to battle and compete with the likes of Manchester United, Manchester City and Chelsea for the Premier League title.

The club's inability to hold onto their top players is also a bone of contention among Arsenal's supporters who, like the players that have left, have become frustrated at not competing for top honours. Chief executive Ivan Gazidis has said that Wenger remains the right man for the job and the best man to lead them forward.

Wenger is still regarded as Arsenal's greatest ever manager, after leading them to three Premier League titles and four FA Cups since arriving in north London in 1996.

Perhaps the current crop of players may reflect on a case of double standards, with players having to wait until the final year of their deals to find out whether they will be offered a new contract or an extension to their current one.

This may well be a defining season for Wenger, and failure to bring in any silverware may force a rethink on his position. Now, how many seasons have I said that?



ARSENE WENGER



Saints Spotlight

Down Memory Lane

September 16 2000

Saints 2 Newcastle United 0

Marian Pahars stole the show with a two-goal performance to help Saints to a 2-0 win against Alan Shearer's Newcastle. It was Saints' first win of the season at the sixth attempt.

September 17 1949

Leeds United 1 Saints 2

A two-goal burst in the opening 15 minutes from Charlie Wayman helped Saints win at Elland Road. It was a start of a 13-game unbeaten run which lasted until Christmas Eve.

September 17 1984

Saints 3 Man United 0

A rare two-goal display from Steve Williams led Saints to a memorable win, David Armstrong chipping in with the third.

September 1 1965

Saints 9 Wolves 3

Martin Chivers grabbed four in a remarkable game at The Dell.

Terry Paine and John Sydenham both scored twice in what remains Saints' record league victory. George O'Brien also netted.



September 18 2011

Saints 4 Birmingham 1

Nigel Adkins celebrated a year in charge with a victory that took Saints back to the top of the Championship. The win, a club-record 13th consecutive home victory, was gained through goals from Rickie Lambert (penalty), Guly do Prado, Adam Lallana and Richard Chaplow, pictured above scoring.

September 19 1959

Saints 5 Mansfield Town 2

Derek Reeves' hat-trick led Saints to a five-star show against Mansfield, with George O'Brien and Tommy Mulgrew also on target.

Reeves would finish the season with 39 goals in 46 league games as Saints finished top of Division 3, their first post-war promotion.

September 19 2009

Saints 2 Yeovil Town 0

Saints claimed their first League 1 win of the season thanks to Rickie Lambert's two penalties.

September 20 2003

Tottenham 1 Saints 3

A James Beattie double led Saints to an impressive win at White Hart Lane. Anthony Gardner's own goal added a third for Saints against a Spurs side who would sack ex-Dell boss Glenn Hoddle the following day.

SAINTS fan and Daily Echo website editor DAN KERINS looks back at the club's summer transfer window business.

Overall, were you happy with Saints' transfer window signings? If not, why?

The window has left us top heavy. The individual players themselves seem like good purchases, but when seen in the context of the squad, it seems a little odd to have gone after so much attacking talent without actually bolstering the defence.

Were you expecting Saints to spend as much as they did – almost £30m?

It was either going to be a frugal window or an extravagant one, so I can't say I'm overly surprised.

Once we signed Rodriguez for £6m, the possibility of going big was always on the cards.

Being linked with Ramirez and Walcott seemed odd at the time, but looking back it does look like the club was on the look-out for a landmark signing for big money, probably to try to make some sort of statement.

Did you ever think you'd see the day when Saints signed a player for around £12m?

Well, with inflation, it had to come one day – although I didn't think it would be just three years after administration.

Talking about inflation, in terms of inflation in the real world, Delap's fee would be around £5m today.

If you consider how much income for Premier League clubs has increased since 2001, £12m isn't really much more extravagant than Delap's purchase 11 years ago.

Do you think Saints needed to sign Gaston Ramirez, given the players already in the squad?

They needed an out-and-out winger, a role which Ramirez seems accustomed to.

I've been annoyed by us playing £6m for a 6ft 1 centre forward, only to stick him out on the wing in an alien formation, so hopefully that will be addressed by Ramirez's signing.

Do you think Saints needed to sign Emmanuel Mayuka, given the players already in the squad?

Apparently he has pace, which is an attribute that is lacking in the squad, but whether or not he can play out wide, I've yet to see.

When he came on against Manchester United, he was playing through the middle, up against Vidic and Ferdinand, who are about six inches taller than him – a nonsensical situation.

I'd imagine we'll see him on the wing, with Lambert in the middle.

Whether or not he's in contention to start regularly, though, I'm not

RECORD SIGNING: Gaston Ramirez, left of main picture.

NO SURPRISE: Dean Hammond, below right, left St Mary's last month to rejoin Brighton & Hove Albion on loan.

QUESTION MARK: Will new signing Emmanuel Mayuka, bottom left, play up front in Nigel Adkins' new-look system, or out wide?



sure. If we're going to persist with 4-3-3, I can't see how we can play him as an out-and-out striker.

Would you have liked Saints to have brought in more players with Premier League experience?

Premier League experience is a term that annoys

me, for the simple fact Nigel Quashie has bags of it, but was still relegated loads of times.

A bit of nous – especially defensively – would be beneficial, though.

The sort of player who knows what it takes to close out a game and when to play it sensibly.

At the moment, the squad is built too much towards attack, attack, attack, and doesn't know how to deal with intense pressure from the other side when they are throwing the kitchen sink at them.

Were you worried that Rickie Lambert would leave, after he was linked to Aston Villa?

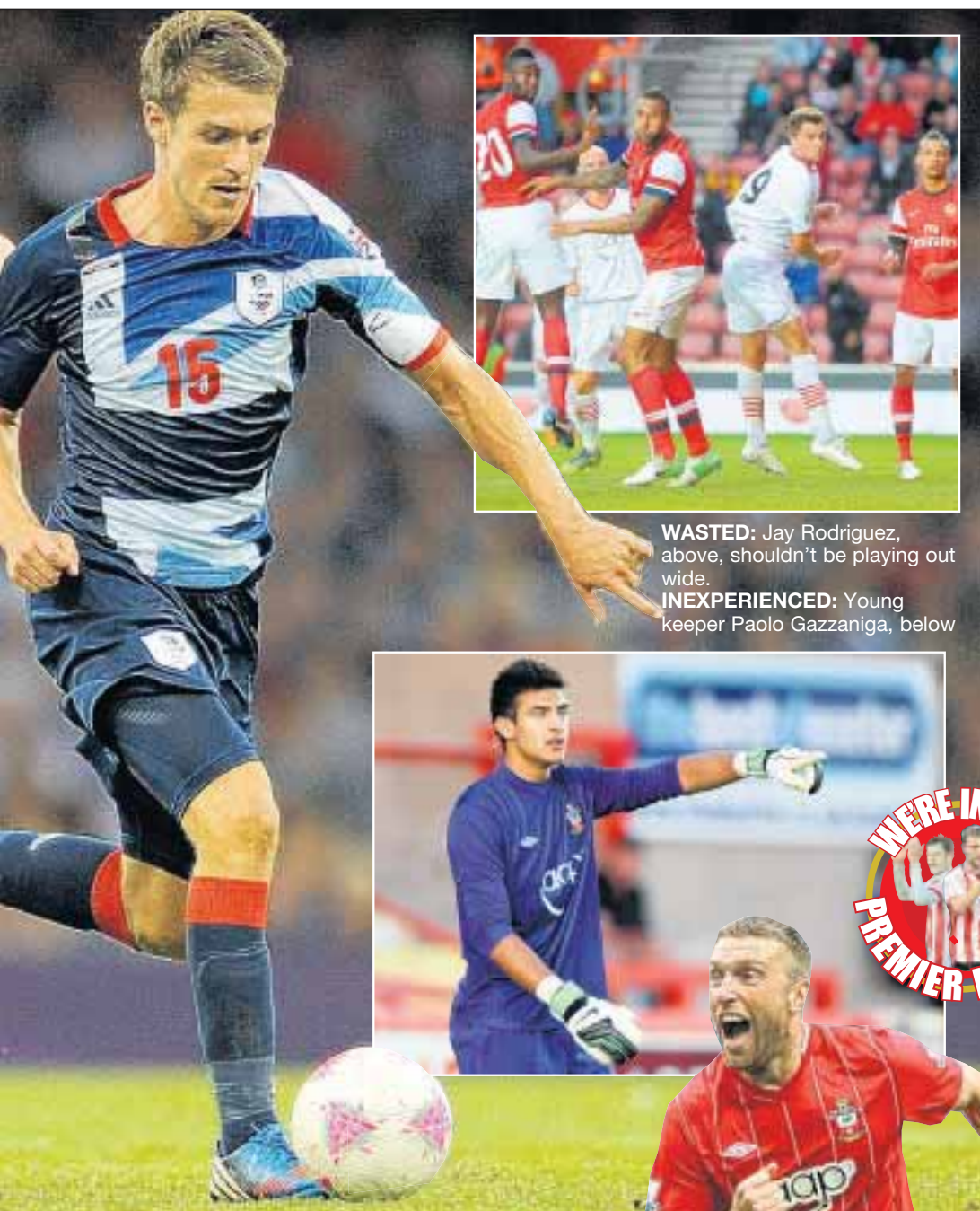
It was so illogical from a Saints point of view, I was very worried – over the years we've always man-



What do you think? Email echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

Saints Spotlight

is going to turn up?



WASTED: Jay Rodriguez, above, shouldn't be playing out wide.
INEXPERIENCED: Young keeper Paolo Gazzaniga, below

aged to shoot ourselves in the foot. Because we had so many forwards going into the last day of the window, something had to give, which is where the fear of losing Lambert came from. Thankfully, he's still here.

Are you happy that there is no real experience in the goalkeeping department should Kelvin Davis lose form or gets injured?
 Not really. I've never seen

Cropper or Gazzaniga play, so I can't judge them on their ability.

I'd have liked us to get someone like Craig Gordon or even Richard Wright in – not to replace Davis, put to provide real competition and, should Davis need to be left out for whatever reason, there would be a bit of know-how behind the back-four.

Goalkeeper is a position you need to have confidence in.

Rightly or wrongly, it's hard to have, at the moment, in youngsters who have not yet had a chance to prove themselves, so by bringing in an older head, it would have relieved some of that pressure.

Were the departures of Billy Sharp and Dean Hammond a surprise?

Hammond, not really. His complete absence from the squads thus far had kind of shown that the writing was on the wall.

Sharp was a surprise – there are other players I would have thought were more likely to leave and, perhaps, I would have preferred to leave.

Are you happy with the squad Nigel Adkins now has?

I guess so – although we are worryingly thin on the ground defensively.

There's no depth whatsoever beyond the central pairing.

Has Adkins got his tactics right so far, playing with just one central striker? What tactics would you like to have seen instead (ie, playing Rodriguez up front alongside Lambert)?

Against Wigan, I felt the 4-3-3 was holding us back.

We were narrow and pedestrian and, without a lot of cover from the wings, Fox and Clyne weren't able to get forward enough.

Against Manchester United, the balance was much better.

Playing Rodriguez on the wing is a waste of him as a player.

He should be in the middle, ahead of Guly and Mayuka, neither of whom are the players who will be able to hold the ball up anything like the manner in which Lambert can, whereas Rodriguez looks like he can play that role.

Personally, I think 4-4-2 worked so well, we've been stupid to ditch it.

Systems should be employed to bring out the best of the attributes the players have, not imposed upon players.

Do you think Saints are good enough to stay up? Which teams would you expect to struggle to avoid relegation?

Depends which Saints turn up. If it's the Saints that played City and United, then yes.

If it's the team that looked devoid of ideas and a cutting edge against Wigan, then no.

Norwich and Villa are obvious candidates for a long hard season, and QPR might not really deliver the return on investment that might be expected.

But as ever, you could easily make a case for about 10 teams to be involved in a relegation battle.

PREMIER LEAGUE

Scholes is among the goals

PAUL SCHOLES scored on his 700th Manchester United appearance and Alexander Buttner and Nick Powell netted on their Red Devils debuts in a 4-0 Premier League win over Wigan at Old Trafford.

Veteran midfielder Scholes, pictured, converted from close range in the 51st minute before Mexican striker Javier Hernandez added United's second from Buttner's assist 12 minutes later.

Dutch defender Buttner, signed last month from Vitesse Arnhem, extended the lead with an impressive solo effort in the 66th minute, and Powell, a summer arrival from Crewe, added a fourth in the 82nd minute having come off the bench.

The hosts had been controversially awarded an early penalty when Ali Al Habsi was judged to have fouled Danny Welbeck, with justice seeming to be done as the Oman shot-stopper kept out Hernandez's attempt from the spot.

United's win takes them up to second in the table on nine points, one point behind leaders Chelsea, whose 100 per cent start to the league campaign came to an end as they drew 0-0 at QPR.

Champions Manchester City are level on points with Arsenal in fourth after their 1-1 draw with Stoke at the Britannia Stadium.

City fell behind in the 15th minute, as Peter Crouch showed good footwork before finishing past Joe Hart.

The visitors made it 1-1 in the 35th minute as midfielder Javi Garcia, one of three players on debut for City, headed in from Carlos Tevez's cross.

Michael Owen came on to make his debut for Stoke, who were clinging on at the end as goalkeeper Asmir Begovic made a stunning save to deny Garcia and Potters captain Ryan Shawcross cleared an Edin Dzeko effort off the line.

Elsewhere, Dimitar Berbatov marked his first start and home debut for Fulham with two first-half goals, one from the penalty spot, to put them firmly in the driving seat in their home game against West Brom.

The Baggies were reduced to 10 men between Berbatov's goals when Peter Odemwingie was shown a straight red card for lashing out at Sascha Riether.

Steve Sidwell completed the Cottagers' 3-0 triumph.

Aston Villa secured their first league win of the season, defeating Swansea 2-0 at home. Summer signing Matthew Lowton scored just after the quarter-hour mark and another new arrival, Christian Benteke, also got off the mark by netting in the 88th minute.



Debate the big Saints issues online at dailyecho.co.uk

Saints Spotlight

■ PREMIER LEAGUE

Surman stars for Norwich

Norwich 0 West Ham 0
TWO teams Saints might be keeping an eye on should they be dragged into a relegation dogfight battled it out for a point apiece at Carrow Road in today's early kick-off.

Norwich were left still seeking their first Barclays Premier League win after West Ham held out for a goalless draw.

Chris Hughton's City enjoyed the better of the first half, and felt they should have been awarded a penalty when James Collins upended ex-Saint Andrew Surman, pictured, but referee Chris Foy correctly ruled the challenge was outside the area.

West Ham also had chances, Carlton Cole's early chance blocked and John Ruddy saving from Kevin Nolan.

Both sides, though, seemed to run out of ideas as the match wore on – but on-loan Tottenham youngster Harry Kane could have won it for the



Canaries in stoppage time, only to scuff his shot straight at the keeper. There had been an early opportunity

for West Ham when a corner was only half-cleared and the ball flashed back across the Norwich goal by Matt Taylor.

At the other end, Surman, in for the injured Anthony Pilkington, cut inside the West Ham box after a quick break down the left and curled the ball just wide of the far post.

Surman continued to press the Irons back, with Guy Demel making a superb tackle to halt his charge.

West Ham made the first clear opening when Ricardo Vaz Te's cross was headed goalwards by Cole, but Russell Martin knocked it off the line.

Norwich's Robert Snodgrass was blocked by Nolan as he cut back inside – but, in a sign of things to come, referee Foy was having no penalty.

The Irons skipper then almost put his side ahead but England keeper John Ruddy made a smart reaction save.

West Ham then produced a series of blocks and saves by Jussi Jaaskelainen and went close again as Holt scuffed wide.

Surman was upended by Collins as he darted into the penalty box, but the Merseyside official correctly ruled the clumsy challenge was inches outside the line.

Norwich started the second half brightly, with Jackson's 25-yard effort tipped over by Jaaskelainen. Snodgrass was just off target with a low effort, and Johnson shot straight at the keeper.

Sean's putting faith in ex-Saints to help Forest hit heights

SEAN O'Driscoll will be hoping the ex-Saints connection and Middle Eastern cash can help Nottingham Forest return to the Premier League.

O'Driscoll was unveiled as Steve Cotterill's successor at the City Ground back in the summer.

The ex-Cherries boss quit his job at Crawley, where he had only been in charge two months, to return to Forest.

O'Driscoll, who coached at the club under Cotterill last season, was appointed by mega-rich owners the Al-Hasawi family.

The Kuwaitis only took control in June, but have shown they mean business by sanctioned 11 new arrivals.

Two of the first five signings were Saints defender Dan Harding and his former St Mary's team-mate Simon Gillett.

The last one was another Saint, striker Billy Sharp, who made a surprise transfer window deadline day move to The City Ground after falling well down the St Mary's pecking order.

Those three joined two more ex-Saints who were already at the club when former long-serving Cherries boss O'Driscoll arrived, strikers Dexter Blackstock and David McGoldrick.

In the same way it was no surprise when Nigel Adkins signed Sharp, having previously worked with the striker at Scunthorpe, so it was the case with O'Driscoll.

After all, he was the manager who signed Sharp for Doncaster. He also signed Gillett for

Rovers, and given that he once took the midfielder on loan while at Cherries he has now signed him for a third time.

Gillett impressed his manager during Forest's 2-1 home win over Charlton on September 1.

Sharp made his debut, just a day after joining, when he came off the bench.

Hopes are now high at Forest that they can challenge for promotion.

With West Bromwich Albion's Simon Cox having recently joined, the Tricky Trees certainly have goal threats.

Sharp and Blackstock are proven second tier scorers while Cox netted 10 goals in his only full season in the Championship for West Brom during their 2009/10 promotion season.

O'Driscoll

delighted with his transfer window business, and certainly with the additions of Sharp and Cox.

"We have not spent £4m or £5m on players people have never heard of," he said.

"We have tried to bring in good characters; people who know the division.

"When you look at the statistics, you did question whether, without Dexter (Blackstock) in the side, we would score enough goals.

"We had a few players who would chip in with the odd goal, but we were short on that front.

"We had a lot of forwards, but

not so many strikers. Now we have three who all look as though they can score goals."

Sharp's move came as a surprise, given that the player only left Doncaster to join Saints last January.

"Billy was not out the blue, because we had been having conversations (with Southampton). But it surprised us all when he became available. I think it surprised Billy," O'Driscoll said.

"We know he will score goals. He showed in the brief spell on the pitch when he came close to getting one. He was disappointed he didn't.

"He will

have a couple of weeks now to bed in with the rest of the lads."

Despite high profile signings like Sharp and Cox, it was Gillett who received the praise after the 2-1 win over Charlton.

Forest led 2-0 before ex-Saint Ricardo Fuller crowned his Addicks debut with a late reply.

"He (Gillett) was our best player," said O'Driscoll of the player who turned out for Portsmouth in pre-season friendlies.

"He's the type who goes under the radar but provides so much.

"The attention might be on the big signings we have made but he provides that bit of glue that is essential.

"Every side needs a player like him because he allows other things to happen."

Blackstock ended last season as Forest's second top scorer in the Championship with eight goals. He didn't play until December, making his return after a year out with a serious knee injury.

As for McGoldrick, who was Saints' top league scorer when they went down from the second tier in 2008/09, he was restricted to nine league appearances, where he failed to score.

He is now on loan at League 1 club Coventry City.

A BIT OF GLUE:

Sean O'Driscoll has hailed the arrival of ex-Saints midfielder Simon Gillett.



PROVEN SCORER: Billy Sharp celebrates scoring for Saints last season.



NEW EASTLEIGH MANAGER RICHARD HILL TALKS - CENTRE PAGES

Saints Spotlight

We were rivals for so long ... now look at my beloved Coventry!

MARKUS Haber wasn't a name I was completely familiar with, that was until about 2:30pm last Sunday.

Haber, a striker for Stevenage, popped up and headed his side in front, a lead they kept and three points they claimed.

They beat Coventry City, my team, on our own patch.

If there is any more chasms we can fall into then please don't point us to them.

We are at our lowest point now, or so I hope.

For as long as I remember, I've lived Coventry City FC.

Growing up a stone's throw from what is now the plush Ricoh Arena, and in the haze of the 1987 FA Cup win, it was a given I'd follow my dad up to the old building which was Highfield Road.

I'd also learn the names of the eleven who paraded the trophy round Wembley and the name of the 'man with the chin' because he was important for the club I watched on a Saturday afternoon.

My first Coventry game was against Southampton at the old girl that was Highfield Road, in 1993.

That correlation with Saints was accurate to the success of the two sides.

From 1967 until the turn of the millennia, the two clubs stood next to each other around the table of England's footballing finest.

Both were relative newcomers to the top flight in the late 1960s. Coventry gained promotion to the old First Division for the first time in April 1967 - 12 months later than Saints.

As well as that, both clubs had their own revolutionaries to thank for where they found themselves.

Coventry had Jimmy Hill; Southampton had Ted Bates.

It took the two men six and 13 years respectively to see the fruits of their labour come out in the glory of First Division football.

Forty five years on and both clubs sit on precariously different plateaus.

Coventry, through years of mismanagement and after two relegations in 11 years - after none in 34 before that - face the fight of scrapping their way out of League 1.

They are looking for the second coming of the 'Sky Blue Revolution' and their next 'Jimmy'.

Southampton, meanwhile sit on the



CONTRASTS: David McGoldrick, above, and Gaston Ramirez.



STUART Court has spent the last two weeks on work experience on the Southern Daily Echo sports desk. Here, he writes about the contrasts between Saints and his own club ...

top table, back after a seven-year famine and flush with the cash the current top flight landscape brings.

It could well be a valid argument that the choppy waters in Coventry and the serenity Southampton currently operate their business in comes down to one decision made by a London-based Hedge Fund in the last calls of 2007.

SISU were looking for a way onto the football money train and subsequently locked on to Southampton.

Six weeks after they first locked their glare on the Saints, SISU stumped the cash together and rode in to save the day.

Only they did it 100 or so miles away. There was a reason to rejoice once more in Coventry as the local club was plucked from the jaws of oblivion.

Southampton faced more questions on their future following the decision, in mid-December in 2007.

The answer came in a surprising form of Markus Liebherr 18 months later.

Since Liebherr emerged from the shadows to save Saints, Southampton has moved up through the gears.

A precise plan in place and no overstretching or hasty cuts to the playing staff has seen them move from 24th in League 1 three years ago to pitting their wits against the might of the two Manchester clubs in the Premier League.

City, meanwhile, have never come close.

A sense of 'what if?' more than anything blights the era under SISU as fine players have been plucked from obscurity and sold on for a clip of their accurate market value - Scott Dann, Danny Fox, Gael Bigirimana to name just three of note.

They struggled to keep up above the waters in the second-tier and now sit in the lower reaches of League 1, without a win for over 100 days, at their lowest position since 1961 and pre-Jimmy Hill and managerless with the fans hoping that the 'new guy' is the guy.

Three weeks since Andy Thorn was sacked and the club looking for their 10th manager since relegation from the Premiership in 2001, the Sky Blue Army is purely a fan base looking for a glimmer of hope on a sparse horizon.

Southampton, in stark contrast to their long-time rivals, are fresh after breaking their transfer record twice in one window, most recently with the coup of Bologna winger Gaston Ramirez.

And who did City sign to whet the appetite for the months ahead?

David McGoldrick. On loan.

Nothing against the former Saints striker - he has, so far at least, impressed - but it's hardly a big splash.

It's the lay of the land now and to get back to the position to attract one of Europe's finest talents is nowhere to be seen.

The McGoldrick-Ramirez comparison is the bit of gravel thrown in the pond.

And it all comes back to the move of a desperate club in 2007 without proper due diligence done, from both parties it has to be said ...

... and, off that, the calculated move made by a long-held rival who in the early part of the season have made trips to Man City and Arsenal whilst hosting Man United.

Oh, hindsight is a wonderful thing ...

MICHAEL Owen has signed for Stoke City after being released by Manchester United on a free. Here, the Sports Pink looks back at the highs and lows of the former England striker's career.

UPS

1997 - Signed a professional contract with Liverpool at the age of 17 and scored on debut against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park in May.

1998 - Won PFA young player of the year and Premier League golden boot. Scores famous World Cup goal against Argentina.

1999 - Won the Premier League golden boot for a second successive season.

2001 - Helped Liverpool to their first trophies in six years - the FA Cup, League Cup and UEFA Cup, scoring in both the FA Cup and UEFA Cup finals. Won the Ballon d'Or for his performances and later that year Liverpool went on to win the UEFA Super Cup and Charity Shield.

2002 - Scored his 100th Liverpool goal in a good campaign for Liverpool where they finished runners-up in the Premier League behind Arsenal.

2003 - Scored in League Cup final win over Manchester United.

2004 - Signed for Real Madrid for a fee of £8million. Only started 15 games but scored 18 goals.

2008 - Scored six goals in six games for Newcastle and was given the captaincy.

2009 - Signed for Manchester United, staying fit for the start of the season and scoring a hat-trick against Wolfsburg in the Champions League and a dramatic late winner in the Manchester derby.

2012 - Joined Stoke on a one-year contract in September.

DOWN

1999 - Hamstring injury ended season prematurely, sidelining him for five months.

2000 - Hamstring problems hampered Owen's season and he only managed a handful of appearances.

2004 - An ankle injury ruled Owen out for three months.

2005 - Deemed surplus to requirements at Real and joined for Newcastle for £16.8million - however injury ruled him out for more than half the season.

2006 - Injured knee ligament on international duty with England at the World Cup and misses most of the following season.

2007 - Injuries hampered the first half of the season.

2008 - Missed all of 2008-09 pre-season through mumps and never hit top form.

2009 - Newcastle relegated in May and Owen decided not to sign a new contract after scoring just 26 goals in four years.

2010 - Owen opened the scoring in the League Cup final for Manchester United as they won the trophy - but carried off on a stretcher as a hamstring injury ends his season.

2012 - Released by United in May.

Saints Spotlight

SAINTS' FIRST TEAM FIXTURES AND RESULTS 2012/13



AUGUST
 Sun 19 Man CityA
 Sat 25 WiganH
 Tues 28 Stevenage (COC 1) ..A

SEPTEMBER
 Sun 2 Man UnitedH
 Sat 15 ArsenalA
 Sat 22 Aston VillaH
 Tues 25 Sheff Wed (COC 2) ..H
 Sat 29 EvertonA

OCTOBER
 Sun 7 FulhamH
 Sat 20 West HamA
 Sun 28 TottenhamH

NOVEMBER
 Mon 5 West BromA
 Sat 10 SwanseaH
 Sat 17 QPRA
 Sun 25 NewcastleH
 Weds 28 NorwichH

DECEMBER
 Sat 1 LiverpoolA
 Sat 8 ReadingH
 Sat 22 SunderlandH
 Weds 26 FulhamA
 Sat 29 StokeA

JANUARY
 Tues 1 ArsenalH
 Sat 12 Aston VillaA
 Sat 19 EvertonH
 Weds 30 Man UnitedA

FEBRUARY
 Sat 2 WiganA
 Sat 9 Man CityH
 Sat 23 NewcastleA

MARCH
 Sat 2 QPRH
 Sat 9 NorwichA
 Sat 16 LiverpoolH
 Sat 20 ChelseaH

APRIL
 Sat 6 ReadingA
 Sat 13 West HamH
 Sat 20 SwanseaA
 Sat 27 West BromH

MAY
 Sat 4 TottenhamA
 Sun 12 SunderlandA
 Sun 19 StokeH

L 2-3 K Davis
 L 0-2 K Davis
 W 4-1 Gazzaniga

Clyne
 Clyne
 Butterfield

Fonte
 Fonte
 Richardson

Hooiveld
 Hooiveld
 Seaborne

Fox
 Fox
 Shaw

Ward-Prowse**
 S Davis*
 Chaplow*

Schneiderlin
 Schneiderlin
 W-Prowse

Lallana
 Lallana
 Hammond**

Puncheon***
 Do Prado
 Puncheon 1

Do Prado
 Rodriguez**
 Lee 1

Rodriguez*
 Lambert
 Sharp*** 1

Lambert* 1
 W-Prowse*
 Reeves* 1

S Davis** 1
 Sharp**
 Chambers**

Sharp***
 Hoskins***

L 2-3 K Davis

Clyne

Fonte

Hooiveld

Fox

W-Prowse

Schneiderlin 1

S Davis

Puncheon*

Lallana***

Lambert** 1

Mayuka*

Do Prado**

Rodriguez***

Moments of truth and lowered expectation

WHEN the final whistle sounded at Wembley on Tuesday night, England manager Roy Hodgson blew out his cheeks and went on to admit his relief that England had managed to gain a point from Ukraine in a match they looked like losing.

The England supporters? They stood and applauded England politely and generously off the field. No boos. No hisses of frustration. No venom.

If anyone needed to know the whereabouts of the expectation levels for England football, they were captured in those two cameos.

The team might have been filled with young lads such as Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, Tom Cleverley, Ryan Bertrand, Danny Welbeck and Daniel Sturridge, in their fledgling months on the international stage.

But after decades of gung-ho patriotism and unrealistic hopes and dreams, the circus which follows England appeared to have grown up. No bad thing that.

The conclusion, however, was that Hodgson has the toughest job of any England football manager in recent times. He has to blend a team comprising men of ageing and slowing influence with players of callow youth but rich promise.

He has to contend, too, with the fact that there is not a deep well of talent in reserve, the quality dropping off a cliff when key men are injured.

Hodgson has to win matches with

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 SPORTS EDITOR

pragmatism to get England through a tricky qualifying group for the World Cup in Brazil in 2014, while at the same time formulating a pattern of play with verve and creativity and sufficient panache to progress deep into the tournament itself.

All of which were reasons why he pounded a relentlessly upbeat message from a decidedly disappointing 1-1 result against Ukraine.

"I was pleased with the way we kept playing our football, taking the game to them and creating chances," said Hodgson.

Dodged the question

"In the end we fully deserved our equaliser so I suppose I'll dodge the question whether it was a good performance or whatever and say that I was very pleased with the way the players went about their task."

Much better if he had not dodged the question.

Much better if he had admitted that Joleon Lescott and Phil Jagielka are willing defenders but a tad short of the highest level when it comes to pace and distribution.

Much better, too, if he had accepted that until England learn to keep the ball and control the rhythm and tempo of a match there is as much chance of them winning the World Cup as Nick Clegg winning the next general election.

Delusion is a familiar bolthole of

England managers, but you suspect deep down Hodgson knows the bottom line.

It is that England possess exciting young players in attack full of promise but with the roughest of edges.

They need an intelligent and disciplined holding midfielder at all times to give them a more solid shape.

They require energy and creativity in midfield.

And they are desperate for a player with the special X-factor.

The good news is that at some stage Hodgson will see the return of Scott Parker and Jack Wilshere in midfield and Ashley Cole and John Terry will make a difference at the back.

Yet, when it comes down to a realistic chance of success, Hodgson is no different from previous England managers.

He needs the real Wayne Rooney to return, preferably in time for England's away trip to Poland on October 16.

Not the Rooney who disappointed at the World Cup in 2010 and Euro 2012, but the Rooney who at his best can dictate the ebb and flow of a match and change games with one moment of genius.

"The sooner he comes back into our fold the better," admitted Hodgson.

If that sounded desperate then it was not meant to.

It was meant to be a reasoned analysis of the shortage of experienced and world-class quality front players in England.

Just another reason why England supporters have come to their senses and lowered their expectations.

	LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG
KELVIN DAVIS	3	0	0	0	276	0
PAULO GAZZANIGA	0	0	1	0	1	0
CODY CROPPER	0	0	0	0	0	0
NATHANIEL CLYNE	3	0	0	0	3	0
DANNY BUTTERFIELD	0	0	1	0	49(4)	0
FRAZER RICHARDSON	0	0	1	0	54(8)	0
DANNY FOX	3	0	0	0	42(4)	0
LUKE SHAW	0	0	1	0	1(1)	0
RYAN DICKSON	0	0	0	0	9	0
JOSE FONTE	3	0	0	0	118(1)	0
JOS HOOIVELD	3	0	0	0	44	8
MAYA YOSHIDA	0	0	0	0	0	0

	LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG
JACK STEPHENS	0	0	0	0	0(1)	0
DAN SEABORNE	0	0	1	0	36(15)	0
STEVE DE RIDDER	0	0	0	0	10(27)	4
RICHARD CHAPLOW	0	0	1	0	48(11)	5
DEAN HAMMOND	0	0	1	0	130(15)	11
JACK CORK	0	0	0	0	66(8)	0
MORGAN SCHNEIDERLIN	3	1	0	0	133(28)	4
ADAM LALLANA	3	0	0	0	177(19)	47
STEVE DAVIS	2(1)	1	0	0	2(1)	0
JAMES WARD-PROWSE	2(1)	0	1	0	5(1)	1
JASON PUNCHEON	2	0	1	1	46(4)	4
GULY DO PRADO	2(1)	0	0	0	68(20)	22

	LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG
RICKIE LAMBERT	2(1)	2	0	0	153(8)	90
JAY RODRIGUEZ	2(1)	0	0	0	2(1)	0
EMMANUEL MAYUKA	0(1)	0	0	0	0(1)	0
GASTON RAMIREZ	0	0	0	0	0	0
BILLY SHARP	0(2)	0	1	1	12(6)	10
TADANARI LEE	0	0	1	1	6(4)	2
SAM HOSKINS	0	0	0(1)	0	0(1)	0
CALUM CHAMBERS	0	0	0(1)	0	0(1)	0
BEN REEVES	0	0	0(1)	1	3(5)	1

KEY: LA: league appearances. LG: league goals. CA: cup appearances. CG: cup goals. CSA: career Saints appearances. CSG: career Saints goals.

Cherries/Pompey Spotlight

Tubbs goal earns draw

CHERRIES 1 HARTLEPOOL 1

MATT Tubbs came off the bench to rescue a late equaliser for out of sorts Cherries at Goldsands Stadium.

Tubbs, who had earlier missed a gilt-edged chance to level, netted in the dying seconds to earn a share of the spoils.

Simon Walton's penalty after 73 minutes appeared to have earned the visitors all three points before Tubbs struck late on.

Joe Partington was restored to the Cherries starting line-up, the midfielder drafted in for Richard Hughes who was ruled out due to a groin injury.

Pools midfielder Simon Walton had a couple of early half-chances, the first saved by Shwan Jalal, the second skied high into the Steve Fletcher Stand.

As a turgid opening period continued, Shaun MacDonald poked wide following a Simon Francis cross before Wes Fogden's header just cleared the crossbar.

Referee Fred Graham decided a drinks break was in order after 30 minutes, much to the chagrin of irate supporters who slow handclapped as the players took on water.

Pools goalkeeper Scott Flinders got down to his left to save Harry Arter's low drive before Josh McQuoid headed wide following

Arter's corner right on the stroke of half-time.

McQuoid curled into the arms of Flinders a presentable goalscoring opportunity at the start of the second half before a double substitution saw Marc Pugh and Charlie Daniels replace Arter and Steve Cook.

The changes briefly enlivened Cherries and Lewis Grabban saw his goalbound effort charged down by Andy Monkhouse before Pugh's fierce drive fizzed past the upright.

Tubbs, the subject of much debate in the build up to the match, replaced McQuoid after 67 minutes, the striker's introduction warmly welcomed by the Goldsands Stadium faithful.

However, disaster struck for Cherries in the 73rd minute when Shaun MacDonald was harshly judged to have felled Evan Horwood inside the penalty box with Walton netting the resultant spot kick.

Tubbs spurned a glorious chance to level when he headed wide with the goal gaping, the striker pouncing on the loose ball after Flinders had saved from Grabban.

Grabban was then denied when his shot was blocked by a defender at the near post before Tubbs dinked the ball over Flinders in the closing seconds to grab a point.



SAVIOUR: Matt Tubbs scored Cherries' late equaliser.

CHERRIES FIXTURES 2012/13

AUGUST

14 Oxford U, A (CC) D 0-0
Lost on penalties
18 Portsmouth, A D 1-1
Barnard
21 MK Dons, H D 1-1
Grabban
25 Preston, H D 1-1
Elphick

SEPTEMBER

1 Sheff Utd, A L 3-5
Barnard, Elphick, Pugh
4 Pompey, A (JPT) D 2-2
Lost 4-3 on pens
MacDonald 2
8 Yeovil, A W 1-0
Hughes
15 Hartlepool (H)
18 Brentford (H)
22 Swindon (A)
29 Walsall (H)

OCTOBER

2 Crawley Town (A)
6 Coventry (A)
13 Leyton Orient (H)
20 Tranmere (H)
23 Notts County (A)
27 Carlisle (A)

NOVEMBER

6 Shrewsbury (H)
10 Doncaster (A)
17 Oldham (H)
20 Stevenage (H)
24 Bury (A)

DECEMBER

8 Scunthorpe (A)
15 Colchester (H)
22 Crewe (A)
26 Yeovil (H)
29 Crawley Tn (H)

JANUARY

1 Brentford (A)
5 Hartlepool (A)
12 Swindon (H)
19 Walsall (A)
26 Crewe (H)

FEBRUARY

2 MK Dons (A)
9 Portsmouth (H)
16 Preston (A)
23 Sheff Utd (H)
26 Coventry (H)

MARCH

2 Leyton Orient (A)
9 Doncaster (H)
12 Stevenage (A)
16 Oldham (A)
23 Bury (H)
30 Colchester (A)

APRIL

1 Scunthorpe (H)
6 Notts County (H)
13 Shrewsbury (A)
20 Carlisle (H)
27 Tranmere (A)

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Pompey miss out

Portsmouth 1 Walsall 2
BRIAN Howard had two early efforts for Portsmouth as they looked to continue the momentum from their 3-0 win at Crawley the previous Saturday.

First the midfielder let fly from just outside the penalty area but the shot flashed past the right-hand post. Then Howard caused problems again, but Andy Butler dealt with the situation.

Florent Cuvelier hit back for Walsall with a right-foot-

ed shot from outside the box which was also just wide.

But Portsmouth were having by far more possession and creating shooting chances.

Howard's left-footed outswinging corners were causing problems and, from one, Darel Russell shot wide from close range.

Teenager Ashley Harris joined in but his shot rose over the bar and Butler did well to block a shot by Luke Rodgers.

Portsmouth were caught out ten minutes into the second half, however, when James Baxendale blasted into the top right corner from the edge of the area.

Seven minutes later a long range effort from Cuvelier nestled in the bottom left corner of Mikkel Andersen's net to make it 2-0.

Pompey pulled back a goal after 68 minutes when Izale McLeod fired high into the net from just inside the penalty area.

PORTSMOUTH FIXTURES 2012/13

AUGUST

14 Plymouth, A (CC) L 0-3
18 Bournemouth, H D 1-1
McLeod
21 Colchester, A D 2-2
Rodgers, Obita
25 Carlisle, A L 2-4
Harris, Clifford

SEPTEMBER

1 Oldham, H L 0-1
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1 Swindon (A)
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16 Carlisle (H)
23 Oldham (A)
26 MK Dons (H)

MARCH

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9 Bury (H)
12 Leyton Orient (A)
16 Doncaster (A)
23 Coventry (H)
30 Preston (A)

APRIL

1 Tranmere (H)
6 Stevenage (H)
13 Brentford (A)
20 Sheff Utd (H)
27 Shrewsbury (A)

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A great year for the Brits

ANDY Murray's victory in New York continued Britain's amazing year of sporting success. Here, the Sports Pink reflects on some of the highlights ...

FOOTBALL

Roberto di Matteo's Chelsea were written off long before reaching the European Cup final in Munich in May and they were a minute away from defeat, having been thoroughly outplayed by hosts Bayern Munich.

But Didier Drogba provided a fairytale finish to his Chelsea career with the winning goal in a dramatic penalty shoot-out, after earlier levelling the score with a powerful header, to enable the club to lift the trophy for the first time in their 107-year history.

However, Chelsea's heroics could not quite match the frenzy from a week earlier when Manchester City scored twice in stoppage time to beat QPR and be crowned champions for the first time in 44 years, pipping Manchester United on goal difference.



GOLF

Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy followed up his triumph in the 2011 US Open with victory in the PGA Championship at Kiawah Island in August by a record eight shots for his second major championship victory.

He then cemented his place as world number one when his BMW Championship victory made him the first man to win back-to-back PGA Tour titles since Tiger Woods in 2009.

It was his third win in four weeks - coming just seven days after he landed the Deutsche Bank Championship in Boston - and means McIlroy will be brimming with confidence going into this month's Ryder Cup showdown against the United States.



OLYMPICS

Britain exceeded even the wildest expectations by amassing 65 medals, including 29 golds, for the best haul since the first time London hosted the Games in 1908 and 18 more than they won in Beijing four years earlier.

Sir Chris Hoy's sixth gold broke records, Ben Ainslie's fourth gold in consecutive Games made him the most successful sailor in Olympic history and Mo Farah, right wrote his name in the history books by becoming the first British man to win a long distance gold since 1908 - and then repeating the feat a week later.

Other heroes were Bradley Wiggins, Andy Murray and Jessica Ennis, but the success was widespread. Of the 26 Olympic sports, 16 brought medals for the British team and there was gold medal success in sports such as taekwondo, dressage and the canoe slalom for the first time.



PARALYMPICS

Great Britain won a record 120 medals, an increase from 102 in Beijing, although the number of golds

Continued on facing page

Sports Personality of the Year award ... Sports

WHY IT'S GOT TO BE BRADLEY WIGGINS

IT'S been a glorious year for British sport with success everywhere you look.

So just who will be crowned BBC Sports Personality of the Year?

Here, *Daily Echo* chief sports writer Adam Leitch, sports editor Simon Carter and sports writer Gordon Simpson give their views and choose their winners ...

Adam Leitch writes ...

A look down the list of past winners shows what an embarrassment of riches are on offer this year.

Some years they could have been forgiven for scrapping the award altogether.

In 1997 Greg Rusedski won the gong, having finished as the runner-up in the US Open.

This year Andy Murray has won the US Open and a gold and silver medal at the Olympics and might not even come in the top three.

David Beckham has won it pretty much for one free kick against Greece, while Ryan Giggs picked up the trophy pretty much as a lifetime achievement award.

Sir Bobby Charlton, on the other hand, never won it and whose achievements were greater?

Kelly Holmes picked it up for her brilliant two Olympic golds, yet this time Mo Farah might not.

Sir Chris Hoy and Ben Ainslie probably won't make the top five despite crowning their records as the most successful British Olympians of all time.

Rory McIlroy, meanwhile, has little to no chance, and he has ruled the golf world and won another major in one of the most successful seasons ever enjoyed by a British golfer.

It's a golden year in so many ways and it's a shame we can't reclaim a few of the trophies that were given out in leaner years and present them now.

One thing to always remember is that it is a public vote, and the word personality does mean exactly

that - personality, not achievement, so it's a wide open field.

Despite athletics generally only being particularly popular every four years, 17 athletes have collected

the award with the next best sport, Formula One, trailing in its wake with six winners.

The list proves that the public prefer to reward competitors in individual

sports rather than teams and this year they have a feast to choose from.

For me, it has to be Bradley Wiggins who wins it. His achievements are just incredible.

Even in that company, winning the Tour de France, and an Olympic gold to further cement his incredible Games record, gets the nod.

It's so tough to pick num-



BBC Sports Personality of the Year Award past winners

1954 - Christopher Chataway (athletics)
1955 - Gordon Pirie (athletics)
1956 - Jim Laker (cricket)
1957 - Dai Rees (golf)
1958 - Ian Black (swimming)
1959 - John Surtees (motorcycle racing)
1960 - David Broome (show jumping)
1961 - Stirling Moss (Formula One)
1962 - Anita Lonsbrough (swimming)
1963 - Dorothy Hyman (athletics)
1964 - Mary Rand (athletics)
1965 - Tom Simpson (cycling)
1966 - Bobby Moore (football)
1967 - Henry Cooper (boxing)

1968 - David Hemery (athletics)
1969 - Ann Jones (tennis)
1970 - Henry Cooper (boxing)
1971 - Princess Anne (eventing)
1972 - Mary Peters (athletics)
1973 - Jackie Stewart (Formula One)
1974 - Brendan Foster (athletics)
1975 - David Steele (cricket)
1976 - John Curry (figure skating)
1977 - Virginia Wade (tennis)
1978 - Steve Ovett (athletics)
1979 - Sebastian Coe (athletics)
1980 - Robin Cousins (figure skating)
1981 - Ian Botham (cricket)
1982 - Daly Thompson (athletics)
1983 - Steve Cram (athletics)

1984 - Torvill and Dean (figure skating)
1985 - Barry McGuigan (boxing)
1986 - Nigel Mansell (Formula One)
1987 - Fatima Whitbread (athletics)
1988 - Steve Davis (snooker)
1989 - Nick Faldo (golf)
1990 - Paul Gascoigne (football)
1991 - Liz McColgan (athletics)
1992 - Nigel Mansell (Formula One)
1993 - Linford Christie (athletics)
1994 - Damon Hill (Formula One)
1995 - Jonathan Edwards (athletics)
1996 - Damon Hill (Formula One)

1997 - Greg Rusedski (tennis)
1998 - Michael Owen (football)
1999 - Lennox Lewis (boxing)
2000 - Steve Redgrave (rowing)
2001 - David Beckham (football)
2002 - Paula Radcliffe (athletics)
2003 - Jonny Wilkinson (rugby union)
2004 - Kelly Holmes (athletics)
2005 - Andrew Flintoff (cricket)
2006 - Zara Phillips (eventing)
2007 - Joe Calzaghe (boxing)
2008 - Chris Hoy (cycling)
2009 - Ryan Giggs (football)
2010 - Tony McCoy (horse racing)
2011 - Mark Cavendish (cycling)

WHO WOULD YOU VOTE FOR SPORTS PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR?

Personality of the Year award ...

A KISS: Bradley Wiggins
the GC Man of the Year award
star Liam Gallagher.



GREAT YEAR: David Weir, above with son Mason, Ellie Simmonds, left, and Andy Murray, below, are all in contention for a top three finish in the 2012 Sports Personality award.



bers two and three.

David Weir's achievements have been inspirational. Four gold medals is incredible, especially with the last coming in the marathon after all that work.

Ellie Simmonds was also incredible, and equally inspirational for me as Alistair Brownlee's triathlon win, but he can't quite make the list. Boxer Carl Froch has been brilliant but can't get in either. How about Mo Farah? Two Olympics golds wasn't bad.

For Murray, I have to discount the Olympics. A nice bauble but meaningless.

However, the US Open certainly very meaningful.

1 Wiggins, 2 Murray, 3

Simmonds

Sports editor Simon Carter writes ...

For once, there are no shortage of potential Sports Personality Award winners.

There have certainly been some barren years, for the likes of Zara Phillips, Ryan Giggs, Greg Rusedski, Michael Owen, Mark Cavendish and David Beckham to have won it.

And there have been a handful of winners who, while their sporting achievements have merited such an honour, have had little 'personality' as such – step forward Nigel Mansell, Steve Davis and Damon Hill.

Not so this year.

In any 'normal' year, Andy

Murray's results would elevate him to the top spot.

Britain's first men's singles finalist at Wimbledon since time immemorial followed up by winning Olympic gold on the same SW19 courts would be reason enough.

But, throw in his first Grand Slam victory after four previous final defeats, and surely Murray will win the Sports Personality silverware?

No. I can't see it happening. One man is the reason why. Bradley Wiggins.

Not only did he claim his fourth Olympic gold, but prior to the sporting extravaganza that was London 2012, which so enraptured a nation, he had won the Tour De France. As a result, Wiggins became the first ever British winner of the world's most

gruelling bike race.

The scale of this victory cannot be under-estimated.

It made Wiggins front page news in the national press prior to the Olympics.

Wiggins and Murray should be the top two in the Sports Personality award, though I can understand others tipping the likes of Jessica Ennis and Mo Farah.

Indeed, it's the sign of a pretty immense year when Farah can win two Olympic track golds – an achievement which won Kelly Holmes the BBC award eight years ago – and not be considered a runaway winner.

Then we come to the Paralympics, and what a superb fortnight of sport they provided too.

The likes of Ellie

Simmonds, Sarah Storey, Jonnie Peacock and David Weir are now virtual household names in this country.

Who'd ever have thought that? Who ever would have thought that one day we would be buying national newspapers with Paralympics coverage on the front pages?

I'll be honest, not me.

Critics always accuse the press of concentrating on the negative, but that certainly wasn't the case during London 2012. It was great to see, on an almost daily basis, a torrent of positive stories about British people.

It's hard to separate the achievements of Weir, Simmonds and Storey, all multiple gold medallists in London 2012.

Hopefully, their efforts will be rewarded by at least one of them finishing in the top three in the Sports Personality award list.

I can certainly envisage such a scenario occurring, unless Rory McIlroy wins the Ryder Cup almost single-handed for GB and Europe.

1 Wiggins, 2 Murray, 3 Storey

Sports writer Gordon Simpson's view ...

Bradley Wiggins, Andy Murray, Mo Farah, David Weir and a host of others all have legitimate claims to the 2012 SPOTY – an increasingly-irrelevant award that finally has new life breathed into it.

But after such an incredible summer of British sport, it seems cruel to try and separate the historic accomplishments of some of our athletes.

Let us hope it doesn't descend into a depressing debate about whether Murray smiles enough for you.

Despite the award's name, this isn't a prize determined by personality...I mean, Ryan Giggs and Greg Rusedski won it for goodness sake.

This is about sporting achievement – it's not a clown contest.

It is hard to see the public looking past Wiggins, the winner of Britain's first ever Tour de France, and Murray, the first British man to capture a grand slam tennis title in 76 years.

But Farah's 5,000m and 10,000m double, as well as Weir's four Paralympic golds, from distances ranging from 800m to the marathon, sent a collective tingle down the spine of the nation.

Even as a Scot, I'll go for Wiggins.

Unlike Murray, Farah and Weir, he does have some team support, but the Tour is such a demanding test of the body's physical capabilities, and his achievement was simply so historic, it would be a shame for it not to be recognised with one final award.

1 Wiggins, 2 Murray, 3 Weir

fell from 42 to 34, and with it came a drop from second to third in the medals table.

Swimmer-turned-cyclist Sarah Storey, pictured, rode into the record books, equalling the 11 career gold medals won by Britain's top modern-day Paralympians Baroness Tanni-Gray Thompson and Dave Roberts.



Sprinter Jonnie Peacock, 19, beat Oscar Pistorius to become the fastest amputee sprinter in the world.

Peacock took the 100m T44 gold in a world-record time.

Among a host of other heroes, wheelchair athlete David Weir collected four golds – proving as adept in the 800m as in the marathon – while Ellie Simmonds was twice a champion in the pool.

HORSE RACING

Frankel began the 2012 season as the highest-rated horse in the world and four demolition jobs since May have merely cemented his status as the greatest horse in training.



He supplemented his Lockinge Stakes success with an 11-length battering of his rivals in the Queen Anne Stakes at Royal Ascot, before going on to justify odds of 1-20 with a facile victory in the Sussex Stakes at Glorious Goodwood.

Switching up in distance to 10 furlongs in the Juddmonte International at York, he gave trainer Sir Henry Cecil "a day he will cherish forever" as he dished out a seven-length beating and extended his unbeaten streak to 13.

TENNIS

British women's tennis has made rapid progress in 2012 with the further progression of Heather Watson and Laura Robson, who knocked out two Grand Slam champions, Kim Clijsters and Li Na, in the US Open before going down bravely to 2011 champion Sam Stosur.

Robson had earlier teamed up with Andy Murray to win a silver medal at the Olympics after the British men's number one had already secured gold with a straight-sets victory over Roger Federer.



Murray had earlier gone down fighting in the final at Wimbledon but it all came good in New York when he achieved his maiden Grand Slam victory at the fifth attempt with a five-sets triumph over Novak Djokovic.

CYCLING

Bradley Wiggins was immediately installed as favourite to be crowned Sports Personality of the Year in May when he became the first British winner of the Tour de France.

Then he made more history by becoming the first man to win the Tour and an Olympic gold medal in the same year.

Wiggins took his Olympic medal tally to seven, including four golds, to move into third place in the list of British Olympians behind Chris Hoy and Steve Redgrave.



Chris Froome had made it a one-two for Team Sky at the Tour de France and British cycling success continued in London with eight gold medals, including Sir Chris Hoy's sixth in the men's keirin final.

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ANDY Murray lit up New York earlier this week when he won his maiden grand slam title at the fifth time of asking, seeing off Novak Djokovic at the US Open.

Despite being a British sporting hero, Murray remains a Scot at heart and joins a pantheon of greats from his home country.

Here, the *Sports Pink* looks at more great sporting Scots.

SIR CHRIS HOY (CYCLING)

Became Scotland's greatest Olympian after the track cyclist picked up three gold medals at the Beijing Games to add to the one he won in Athens in 2004. At London 2012 he added a fifth with victory in the team sprint and a sixth in the keirin, making him Britain's most successful Olympian too.

KEN BUCHANAN (BOXING)

The first British boxer to be inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame, Buchanan just edges out Jim Watt. Became the first British lightweight champion of the world in 53 years in 1970 when he beat Ismael Laguna on a sweltering September night in Puerto Rico. Defended his title twice.

JACKIE STEWART (MOTOR RACING)

The bare statistics tell you how great a driver 'the Flying Scot' was - three Formula One world championships in five years between 1969 and 1973 and 27 victories from 99 grand prix races.

KENNY DALGLISH (SOCCER)

Wins a place as Scotland's greatest footballer despite stiff competition from the likes of Denis Law and Jim Baxter. Scored 172 goals in 511 appearances with Liverpool and 30 goals in 102 appearances for Scotland. Won multiple league titles north and south of the border and netted the winning goal for Liverpool in the 1978 European Cup final.

SHIRLEY ROBERTSON (SAILING)

Two-time Olympic gold medalist Shirley Robertson merits her place on the list. Her first medal - at the Sydney Olympics - was the reward for a tenacious performance but her second at Athens was so comfortable she could afford to take the final day off.

STEPHEN HENDRY (SNOOKER)

Perhaps the greatest snooker player of all time. Hendry won the World Championships seven times, a record for the modern era. Made 11 147s in championship play before retiring at the Crucible this year.

BOBBY THOMSON (BASEBALL)

The only entrant on the list better known in the United States than in the country of his birth. 'The Staten Island Scot' - he was born in Glasgow and emigrated aged two - hit baseball's most famous home run on October 3, 1951 - 'the shot heard round the world' - which won the National League pennant for the New York Giants.

JOCK STEIN/SIR MATT BUSBY/BILL SHANKLY/SIR ALEX FERGUSON (SOCCER)

Included on the list in recognition of Scotland's unique contribution to football management. For a country with only five million people to have produced four men who have had such a significant impact on the world's favourite game is extraordinary. Impossible to choose between them.

ERIC LIDDELL (ATHLETICS)

Probably Scotland's greatest track athlete, he achieved fame at the 1924 Olympics. Missed out on a medal in the 100 metres, his best event, because his Christian convictions prevented him from competing on a Sunday, but went on to win a gold in the 400m and bronze in the 200m.

2012 legacy, we'll see...

IT'S all over, the London Games that is.

The Olympics and the Paralympics have been a massive success.

They may have cost a fortune, but at least they delivered in terms of the event itself.

Whether it will have any lasting legacy remains to be seen.

Adam Rant finds it hard to believe it will encourage greater participation in sport in the long run.

In terms of regeneration, it is hard to say.

At the risk of being slapped down in the street for saying this with all the patriotic pride that has been instilled from the Games, whether it was worth the money is certainly debatable.

It gave us a fantastic month to be proud of, but whether in the long run it is worth more than some extra hospitals and schools is a matter of opinion.

t20 defence without KP?

ENGLAND start the defence of their World Twenty20 crown in the coming days and it is going to be a real struggle for them to retain it without Kevin Pietersen.

Not only does the talismanic figure contribute runs of course, but sometimes you need a presence that scares the opposition.

He does that even when he struggles slightly for form.

What has happened in recent weeks is a pretty sorry tale.

For it all to have got to the point where Pietersen is not involved, is a sad day for England and English cricket.

You can be sure of one thing, though - England need to perform well not to have Pietersen's absence rammed down their throats.

If they don't then it will only strengthen Pietersen's hand for a quick end to his international exile.



At last. Andy Murray is a Grand Slam champion.

Adam Rant hates to say he told you so. Well, no, actually he loves it, and he did.

Regular readers of this column will know he has consistently said Murray's most likely win will be at the US Open and that it would be in an exceptional year in terms of the top players.

So it proved.

Rafael Nadal wasn't at the tournament due to injury and Roger Federer lost in the quarters after having a long period without a game due to an opponent's withdrawal.

That meant the only major obstacle for Murray was to get past Novak Djokovic, who was not at the very top of his game and in initially windy conditions in which the Serb really struggles.

That is not to take anything away from Murray's achievement, which was marvellous, just to put it into context.

The thing is that he needed that sort of contriving of situations to get

Andy Murray's tennis

AFTER WINNING THE US OPEN BOYS' TITLE IN 2004:

"I've been compared to Tim (Henman) a lot and to be compared to someone who has been in the top 10 for six or seven years is great. I think I have got a chance of going all the way in tennis and that's what I want to do."

THINKING BIG IN 2005:

"I want to get into the top 10 - then maybe I can get a date with Maria Sharapova!"

ON THE BRITISH MEDIA FOCUS, SPEAKING IN OCTOBER 2005:

"I have watched Tim Henman go through it in the last 10 years, and I hope they [the media] are a bit nicer to me than they were to him."

AFTER SAYING HE AND KENNETH CARLSEN "PLAYED LIKE WOMEN" AT AN EVENT IN AUCKLAND:

"I'm not allowed to make a joke. It is a bit unfair how I'm treated. I thought it was a joke."

AFTER LOSING IN THE 2006 AUSTRALIAN OPEN FIRST ROUND:

"If you guys expect me to play well every single match and every single tournament then it's not going to happen."

AFTER SUCCEEDING TIM HENMAN AS BRITISH NUMBER ONE IN FEBRUARY 2006:

"If you're number one in your country it's obviously nice but it doesn't mean anything to the other players, whereas if you're in the top 10 in the world that's pretty special."

ON RECEIVING A GOOD-LUCK CALL FROM SIR SEAN CONNERY DURING WIMBLEDON 2006:

"There's nothing cooler than being woken up by James Bond."

ON WHO HE WOULD BE SUPPORTING AT THE 2006 WORLD CUP:

"Anyone but England."

AFTER A BACKLASH TO HIS 'ANYONE BUT ENGLAND' COMMENT:

"I made a joke, I don't mind whether England win or lose!"

ON BROTHER JAMIE (speaking in 2005):

"My brother is very talented. He was the number two junior in the world when he was 13, then he went down to an LTA school in Cambridge and they



TURN TO PAGE 48 FOR ALL TODAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS

'told you so'



Adam Rant

This week's big talking points
with Adam Leitch

him over the line.

But, now he has that, the floodgates may well open and he could win a stack of Grand Slam titles without needing such circumstances.

With Murray it has never been about ability, that has never been in question.

But tactics have, as has his mental frailty at times.

Against Djokovic he proved he has got over both of those hurdles, and surely it is no coincidence that he has done it with Ivan Lendl in his corner.

Murray's TV interview when he arrived at the stadium for the final was as impressive an interview as he has ever done.

His pre semi-final interview was the same. He was happy to openly discuss his tactics for the upcoming game and did it in a very calm, composed and relaxed fashion.

For the first time, it sent out the message that Murray was actually comfortable to be in this situation, that he actually believed he belonged and he would find a way to win.

He was proved right.

The final was an epic match, a great watch.

Some of the defensive play from both players was staggering, the long rallies breathtaking.

To play at that kind of level for five hours is an incredible feat, and it was Murray who was the one left standing and who was triumphant at the end.

Can Murray now go on and become a multiple Grand Slam champion?

Well, he has done the hardest bit and that is getting the first one in the bag.

The more he tried and failed, the harder it became.

If he would have lost this final he was in serious danger of never winning one.

No matter how good you are, to come back from five Grand Slam final defeats would be extremely tough.

Murray may still have to find a way to beat two of the big three – Federer, Nadal and Djokovic – in a row to repeat the feat, something that he hasn't found easy in the past, often beating one but then unable to follow it up to win a tournament.

But from his point of view, he must look at Nadal struggling so badly with injuries, and Federer hitting 31, and proving he can beat Djokovic on the biggest stage, and wonder whether the pathway might just be opening up in front of him.

One night has changed everything ...

Confusion over call for Adam

ADAM Lallana's England call-up was great news for the midfielder.

But after the initial excitement, it has left Adam Rant scratching his head a little.

Whilst it proved that players can get serious international recognition whilst at Saints, you do wonder whether this would have happened had the club not been back in the Premier League.

Bear in mind

they have actually only been in the top flight again for three matches.

It's not as if Roy Hodgson has suddenly seen somebody consistently shine over a prolonged period of time.

If Saints were still in the Championship and Lallana had played just as well then it makes you wonder whether he would have been called-up.

That, in turn, makes you seriously question the selection policy.

Also, as much as it is great for Lallana, to be called into the squad as 'a youngster' to get some experience seems a little weird as Lallana is 24.

He is not an inexperienced kid, he is now a very seasoned professional footballer who has played at a high level for many years, including at virtually every age group level for England.

Strange.



Ex-Saints boss happy not to be involved with England

FORMER Saints boss Harry Redknapp has revealed he was "quite relieved" at not being offered the England manager's job.

Redknapp, below, was the overwhelming favourite to take charge of the Three Lions' post vacated by Fabio Capello earlier this year but was overlooked in favour of Roy Hodgson.

The 65-year-old holds no grudges, though, saying: "I was enjoying my life at Tottenham and I did wonder how I would cope, if it happened, with what is part-time football. I do enjoy seeing footballers every day; being on the training ground.

"I was driving when I heard on the radio that Roy had got the job. It happened out of the blue. But I didn't lose any sleep over it that night.

"I was almost quite relieved in a way - that I hadn't been given a decision to make. The decision had been taken away from me."

Although the Football Association have insisted Roy Hodgson was always their first choice, Redknapp hinted contractual matters with his then club Tottenham may have played a part in him being overlooked.

He said: "When I look back I think it was always going to be a problem for me. I mean, I have to be careful what I say here, but I had a contract that was very heavily loaded; that anyone who wanted to take me, we're talking massive money in compensation.

"The FA would say that it wasn't the reason and it wouldn't be fair on Roy Hodgson to say I would have had the job had it not been for that. But I always felt, from day one, that it might rule me out. That it might be a problem."

Redknapp guided Spurs to a top four finish in the Barclays Premier League last season and they only missed out on Champions League football by virtue of Chelsea winning the competition.

Therefore it came as a surprise when the former West Ham, Southampton and Portsmouth boss left White Hart Lane over the summer, replaced by Andre Villas-Boas.

"Looking back I don't think finishing fourth decided it," Redknapp added. "I think the club just wanted to make a change."



life, in his own words

ruined him. It was their fault."

AFTER WINNING SAN JOSE TITLE IN 2006, HIS FIRST ON THE ATP TOUR:

"It's the biggest moment in my life in tennis so far."

CASTING DOUBT ON HIS DAVIS CUP FUTURE IN 2007:

"I love Davis Cup but it's just that I'm hurting myself from playing it."

ON HIS 'TEAM MURRAY' ENTOURAGE:

"It's just much more fun travelling around the world because it can get quite lonely sometimes and to have a lot of people around you just makes you feel a little bit more at home, when you're away."

AFTER LOSING TO ROGER FEDERER IN THE 2008 US OPEN FINAL:

"I'm disappointed right now. I could have done a few more things and given myself a few more opportunities."

AFTER LOSING TO FEDERER IN THE 2010 AUSTRALIAN OPEN FINAL:

"I'm getting closer (to a grand slam). My results in the grand slams would show that. I've just got to keep working hard."

ON WORKING WITH NEW COACH IVAN LENDL AT THE 2012 FRENCH OPEN:

"There's not been one radical change. A lot of it is minor details. But if you pick 10 small things to work on and change, that can turn into a big difference."

AFTER LOSING TO FEDERER IN THE 2012 WIMBLEDON FINAL:

"I'm getting closer. If I wasn't emotional I guess I'm probably in the wrong sport."

FOLLOWING AN OLYMPIC FINAL WIN OVER FEDERER:

"I've had a lot of questions asked about me many times. I'm just glad I managed to put on a performance I've been waiting for. To win today, in the way I did, makes those losses a little bit easier to take."

AFTER FINALLY WINNING A MAJOR BY BEATING DJOKOVIC AT THE US OPEN

"At the beginning of the fifth set I went to the toilet and said to myself: 'Give it all you've got'. And I did."



AT LAST: Andy Murray wins his first Grand Slam event.

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When a jackpot has been won the next week's prize reverts back to £6,000 and the nearest-miss prize at £1,000.

If the Jackpot is not won after 45 weeks, when standing at £50,000, three nearest miss prizes will be awarded totalling £24,000 – with a first prize of £12,000, a second prize of £8,000 and a third prize of £4,000.

The jackpot for the following week will be £26,000 with £1,000 being added each week. The nearest miss prize will be £2,000 with £50 added each week until the jackpot prize reaches £50,000.

If there is still no entry showing the exact centre of the ball, the process is repeated until there is an exact centre of the ball winner.

If there is more than one winner the jackpot will be shared and, similarly, if there is more than one runner-up the nearest miss prize will also be shared.

RESULTS



CLOSING DATE FOR POSTAL ENTRIES
Thursday
9am,
20 September
2012
Names of winners will be published on
Saturday,
22 September
or Sunday
23 September
2012

An incident in a Winchester v Taunton match

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September 15, 2012

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Mr W Haysom, Poole, Dorset
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1. You are allowed a minimum of 60 crosses and a maximum of 325 per coupon. Coupons with 326 or more will be disqualified. Entries altered defaced or mutilated will be invalid. Crosses must be distinct and separate. **2.** Competitors may submit as many coupons as they wish. Members of a family can send their entries in one envelope with a covering postal order or cheque. **3.** No responsibility can be accepted for entries delayed, lost or mislaid. Proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. **4.** Payment may be made by postal order or cheque for the correct amount payable to Newsquest, and crossed 'X Co.' Stamps **will not** be accepted in payment. **5.** A competitor cannot win more than one share of the prize money across all titles each week. **6.** The Editor's decision on winning entry or entries and matters relating to this competition is binding in honour only. **NO CORRESPONDENCE CAN BE ENTERED INTO.** **7.** Employees of NEWSQUEST Media Group and subsidiary companies and members of their families are not eligible to enter the competition. **8.** Address entries to FTB PO Box 24 Competitions, Southampton SO16 9ZD in a sealed envelope. Understamped entries are not accepted. **9.** Prize monies are held for and on behalf of winners. **10.** Do not send cash in the post. **11.** Winners will be required to participate in publicity. **12.** Photocopies not accepted. **13.** For rules go to www.dailyecho.co.uk/promotions/rules, www.newsquest.co.uk/terms or write in for a copy.



Non-league Action

Four goals for starters!

Wendy Gee

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

**EASTLEIGH 4
MAIDENHEAD UTD 2**
RICHARD Hill got off to a dream start as Eastleigh manager by guiding his new charges to a 4-2 Blue Square Bet South home win over third-placed Maidenhead.

It ended a downward spiral of three consecutive defeats for the Spitfires in the Blue Square Bet South.

Following last week's 4-0 disaster at Billericay, the new boss recalled Andy Forbes, Moses Ademola and Jai Reason to the starting line-up.

Eastleigh's wide-men started brightly with Ademola producing a bit of trickery on the right and then Dale Binns forcing a corner on the opposite flank – Tom Jordan heading Daryl McMahon's delivery wide.

The pair then linked up well on five minutes with Ademola feeding the ball to Binns who wasn't far away from finding the far top corner.

Eastleigh were enjoying blanket possession early on and playing with a real sense of attacking freedom.

They went close again with ten minutes gone when Reason played in Ademola on the right of the area and his angled effort bypassed both the keeper and the far post.

Eastleigh keeper Jack Dovey was a bystander until the 13th minute when he got soundly behind Daniel Brown's free kick.

Gradually, however, Maidenhead began to up the competitive side of their game and, cruelly, it was the visitors who took the lead on 19 minutes.

The Magpies seized on a loose ball out of defence by Jordan and quickly played in **LEON SOLOMON** to beat Dovey with a sweet, low strike from 20 yards.

Eastleigh temporarily lost their defensive composure, but on 24 minutes they had a chance to get back into it when Solomon backed into Binns on the left corner of the area. McMahon swung in the free kick with the hope of finding the towering Jordan, but Maidenhead got there first.

Two headed opportunities quickly followed for the Spitfires – one for Craig McAllister and another a Jordan effort from a McMahon corner, but there was nothing to unduly trouble the Maidenhead defence.

Eastleigh were trying to play the



ON THE CHARGE: Craig McAllister tries to break through for Eastleigh.

Picture: Paul Collins

ball out from the back wherever possible and, on 35 minutes, a good passing move ended with McMahon testing ex-Eastleigh keeper Billy Lumley from 25 yards.

The Spitfires' persistence in playing good football paid dividends with a 38th-minute equaliser, spookily just after the PA man had accidentally played a celebratory burst of Spandau Ballet's "Gold".

He was playing it for real seconds later as the quick-footed **ADEMOLA** swapped passes with Reason inside a crowded penalty area before steering the ball into the far bottom corner.

A comedy of errors, starting with a mistake by goalkeeper Dovey, almost got Eastleigh into trouble again.

But they quickly responded by forcing two goal-line clearances in a matter of seconds.

First Reason was denied by a diving header from Leigh Henry and then Derek Duncan cleared yet another Jordan header from a corner while guarding Lumley's right-hand post. Half-time:

Eastleigh 1
 Maidenhead Utd 1
 Eastleigh continued to build patiently after the break and should have gone in front on 52 minutes when Reason cleverly laid the ball off to Ademola who blazed a dream chance over from close range.

Maidenhead responded when Harry Pritchard fired over from the edge of the box but, with new boss Hill an animated figure in the home technical area, there was a real sense that Eastleigh could get their noses in front.

They did just that on 57 minutes when they carved Maidenhead's defence open with more neat footwork – Binns threading the ball through for full-back **OSEI SANKOFA** to beat Lumley at his near post for his first Eastleigh goal.

But just when the Spitfires should have taken the game by the scruff of the neck, they were pegged back again on 66 minutes when Magpies skipper Brown knocked the ball into the path of **REECE TILSON-LASCARIS** to fire in the equaliser after Eastleigh had been undone down their left.

Hill withdrew Ademola on 69 min-

utes and put on Damian Scannell who immediately forced a corner. For once, McMahon's delivery was not good, but Eastleigh worked the ball back into the box where Scannell, back to goal, managed to turn his marker and force Lumley to block with his legs.

With Eastleigh's tails up again, Binns rampaged down the left and flashed a dangerous delivery across the goal face which just eluded Scannell at the far post.

Eastleigh reclaimed the lead on 77 minutes when McMahon got his next corner just right, picking out **JORDAN** to score with a powerful, downward header.

After a spate of substitutions, McMahon threaded the ball through to Reason who appeared to be bundled over in the box, but the referee waved play on.

McMahon curled a free kick over as Eastleigh looked to make the game safe.

They did so a minute into stoppage time when McAllister passed the ball across the area and Reason played in **GLEN SOUTHAM** to make it 4-2 from close range.

Totton bounce back to win in some style

St Neots Town 1 AFC Totton 3
SECOND half goals from Dave Allen, Richard Gillespie and Jonathan Davies saw Totton recover from a half time deficit to win at St Neots in the Evo-Stik Southern League Premier Division.

The home side had the better of the opening exchanges causing problems for the Totton defence who had to clear their lines on three separate occasions.

Then, against the early run of play, Richard Gillespie was well tackled by Gavin Hoyte as the Stags striker prepared to shoot from close range.

But two minutes later Totton fell behind when ex Aston Villa and QPR man Stefan Moore received the ball inside the area and shot through the legs of Gareth Barfoot.

Gillespie went close to levelling on 15 minutes but his shot was well saved by St Neot's keeper Michael Duggan as it headed for the top corner.

Barfoot was then twice called in to action as the half progressed, racing to the edge of his area to clear from the feet of Moore and Ben Mackey.

The Stags had an early let-off at the start of the second half when Lewis Hilliard scooped the ball over from two yards.

But on 48 minutes Allen found himself behind a static home defence and fired low into the corner for the equaliser.

Then with an hour gone Allen's shot was saved by Duggan before Gillespie's follow-up was parried into the net by the unfortunate keeper.

With St Neots pushing hard to level, the Totton defence were outstanding and with three minutes left the Stags secured the points when James Couotts cut the ball back for Davies to rifle home from 20 yards.



GILLESPIE

Lyndhurst go through on penalties

**SOUTHAMPTON
JUNIOR A CUP**

Lyndhurst Res 0 Compton Res 0
 (Lyndhurst won 1-0 on penalties)
BOTH teams had chances to take the lead but in general the defences were on top and there was no score at full time.

The game went to extra time and then penalties.

Compton missed two penalties, Lyndhurst missed one but **JAKE SHEATH** the blond Lyndhurst defender came up to get the all-important goal to send Lyndhurst through to the next round in a very sporting game.

Non-league Football

● **SEPTEMBER 29 promises to be a big night for Sydenhams One outfit Andover New Street.**

● **Not only will the north Hampshire club celebrate the**

20th anniversary of their move to Foxcotte Park, but they will toast the achievements of the 1962 Andover League and Cup double-winning team to coin-

cide with this year's FA Charter Standard Community Club award.

● **There will be a wine reception and buffet for past, present and**

future members with a few speeches

● **The dress code will be smart casual and entry will be by invite only to control the num-**

bers for catering.

● **For more information contact secretary Mick Bugg via email at andovernewstreetfc@hotmail.co.uk**



NET GAIN: Jamie White makes the breakthrough for Salisbury against Eastbourne Borough. Picture: Carolyn White

Jamie's White-hot run is no surprise to McCarthy

Local and national football fixtures for the week ahead

Sunday, September 16
Barclays Premier League: Reading v Tottenham
npower Championship: Wolves v Leicester

Monday, September 17
Barclays Premier League: Everton v Newcastle

Tuesday, September 18
UEFA Champions League: AC Milan v Anderlecht, Borussia Dortmund v Ajax, Din Zagreb v FC Porto, Malaga v Zenit St Petersburg, Montpellier v Arsenal, Olympiakos v Schalke 04, Paris SG v Dynamo Kiev, Real Madrid v Man City
Championship: Birmingham v Bolton, Blackburn v Barnsley, Derby v Charlton, Leeds United v Hull, Millwall v Cardiff, Peterborough v Bristol City, Watford v Brighton, Blackpool v Middlesbrough, Crystal Palace v Nottm Forest

League One: Bournemouth v Brentford, Carlisle v Crewe, Colchester v Crawley, Leyton Orient v Yeovil, MK Dons v Notts County, Oldham v Scunthorpe, Portsmouth v Swindon, Preston v Hartlepool, Sheffield United v Doncaster, Shrewsbury v Coventry, Stevenage v Walsall, Tranmere v Bury
League Two: Wrexham v Torquay, Aldershot v Barnet, Bradford v Morecambe, Cheltenham v Oxford Utd, Chesterfield v Accrington, Dag & Red v Northampton, Exeter v Wycombe, Fleetwood v Port Vale, Gillingham v Southend, Plymouth v Bristol Rovers, Rotherham v Rochdale

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: AFC Totton v Bideford, Alessey v Chesham, Banwell v Bedford, Bedworth v Hitchin, Chippenhams v Ashley, Gosport Borough v St Albans, Hemel Hempstead v St Neots, Kettering v Cambridge City, Redditch v Leamington, Stourbridge v Banbury.
Division One South & West: Shortwood v Yate.
SYDENHAMS LEAGUE
Premier Division: Alesford v Moneyfields, Alton v Hordean, Blackfield & Langley v GE Hamble, Christchurch v New Milton, Hamworthy v Hayling, Venwood v Romsey.
Division One: Cowes Sports v Ringwood, Fleet Spurs v Whitechurch, Tadley Calvea v US Portsmouth.
SL Cup, second round: Hythe & Dibden v East Cowes Vics.

Wednesday, September 19
UEFA Champions League: Barcelona v Spartak Moscow, Bayern Munich v Valencia, Braga v CFR Cluj-Napoca, Celtic v Benfica, Chelsea v Juventus, Lille v BATE Borisov, Man Utd v Galatasaray, Shakhtar Donetsk v FC Nordsjaelland
Championship: Ipswich v Wolves, Leicester v Burnley, Sheffield Wed v Huddersfield

League Two: Burton Albion v York
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Frome v Weymouth.
SYDENHAMS LEAGUE
Premier Division: Fawley AFC v Newport IoW.
Division One: Amesbury v Petersfield.
HAMPSHIRE FA SENIOR CUP
First round: Totton & Eling v Hartley Wintney.
PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE
Senior Division: Locks Heath v Bournemouth Sports (7.30)
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
Premier Division: Fleet Town v Salisbury City, Gosport Borough v AFC Totton, Moneyfields v Christchurch.

Thursday, September 20
UEFA Europa League: Maritimo v Newcastle, Young Boys v Liverpool, Tottenham v Lazio
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
Premier Division: Ashley v Dorchester, Winchester City v Wimbome.
SOUTHAMPTON DFA SENIOR CUP
Blackfield & Langley Res v Hamble Club

Friday, September 21
Championship: Blackburn v Middlesbrough
Blue Square Bet Conference Premier
Grimsby v Luton.
SYDENHAMS LEAGUE
Division One: Pewsey Vale v Laverstock & Ford.

Saturday, September 22
Premier League: Swansea v Everton, Chelsea v Stoke, Southampton v Aston Villa, West Brom v Reading, West Ham v Sunderland, Wigan v Fulham
Championship
Crystal Palace v Cardiff, Derby v Burnley
Ipswich v Charlton, Leeds United v Nottm Forest, Millwall v Brighton, Peterborough v Wolves, Sheffield Wed v Bolton, Watford v Bristol City, Birmingham v Barnsley.
League 1: Brentford v Oldham, Bury v MK Dons, Coventry v Carlisle, Crawley v Tranmere, Crewe v Leyton Orient, Doncaster v Stevenage, Hartlepool v Shrewsbury, Notts County v Portsmouth, Scunthorpe v Colchester, Swindon v Bournemouth, Walsall v Preston, Yeovil v Sheffield Utd
League 2: Accrington v Aldershot, Barnet v Rotherham, Bristol Rovers v Fleetwood, Morecambe v Plymouth, Northampton v Chesterfield, Oxford Utd v Bradford, Port Vale v Gillingham, Rochdale v Dag & Red, Southern v Exeter, Torquay v Burton Albion, Wycombe v Wimbledon
Blue Square Bet Conference Premier
Telford v Mansfield, Alfreton v Kidderminster, Braintree v Stockport, Ebbsfleet v Barrow, Hereford v Cambridge, Hyde v Nuneaton, Macclesfield v Forest

Green, Newport v Southport, Tarnworth v Lincoln City, Woking v Gateshead, Wrexham v Dartford.

FA CUP Second qualifying round (local ties): Truro City v AFC Totton, Dorchester Town v Wootton Bassett Town, Gillingham Town v Sholing, North Leigh v Havant & Waterlooville, Basingstoke Town v Weymouth, Newport IoW v Salisbury City, Gosport Borough v Bideford or Bodmin Town, Fareham Town v Blackfield & Langley, Farnborough v Eastleigh.
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Division One South & West: Abingdon v Mangotsfield, Cirencester v Winchester City, Paulton v Evesham, Poole Town v Bridgwater, Taunton v Swindon Supermarine, Wimbome v Cinderford.
SYDENHAMS LEAGUE
Premier Division: Christchurch v Bournemouth Poppies, Fawley AFC v Alesford, GE Hamble v Hordean, Hayling v AFC Portchester, Lynton v Alton, Moneyfields v Hamworthy, New Milton v Venwood.

Division One: Amesbury v Cowes Sports, Brockenhurst v Stockbridge, East Cowes Vics v Fleet Spurs, Petersfield v Hythe & Dibden, Ringwood v Tadley Calvea, US Portsmouth v Andover New Street, Whitechurch v Team Solent.

PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE
Senior Division: AFC Aldermaston v AFC Stoneham, Clanfield v QK Southampton, Colden Common v Liphook, Fleetlands v Hedge End Rangers, Hamble Club v University of Portsmouth, Liss v Winchester Castle, Otterbourne v Sporting BW, Overton v Locks Heath, Paulsgrove v Bournemouth Sports.
Combination: AFC Stoneham v Clanfield, Bournemouth Sports v Overton, Hedge End Rangers v AFC Aldermaston, Liphook v Otterbourne, Locks Heath v Paulsgrove, QK Southampton v Hamble Club, Sporting BW v Colden Common, Winchester Castle v Fleetlands.

MAGNATA CARE HAMPSHIRE LEAGUE 2004: Broughton v Forest Town, Crusaders v Four Marks, Infinity v Dursley, Lyndhurst v Upham.

WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
Premier Division: AFC Portchester v Sholing.
Division One West: Blackfield & Langley v Fawley AFC, Downton v East Cowes Vics, Hythe & Dibden v Lynton Town, Laverstock & Ford v New Milton, Venwood v Ringwood.

Division One East: Alton v Petersfield, Hordean v Whitechurch, Tadley Calvea v Newport IoW, Team Solent v GE Hamble, WL Challenge Cup, first round: AFC Totton v Lynton Town, Bemerton HH v Alesford.
POOLE BAY CHALLENGE CUP
First round: Christchurch Res v Alderholt.

WITH just over a month of the new season gone, ex-Saint Jamie White is averaging a goal a game for Blue Square Bet South pace-makers Salisbury City.

It comes as no surprise to Winchester City owner Paul McCarthy who always knew the prolific 22-year-old would thrive at the higher level after plundering goals galore for his promoted Sydenhams Premier champions last term, **writes WENDY GEE.**

White announced himself on the Conference South scene by scoring Salisbury's opener in their 2-1 first-day win over AFC Hornchurch and has been regularly contributing to victories ever since.

Four days later he bagged a brace in the 2-1 triumph at Tonbridge Angels and, having struck again in the 3-2 home win over Bath City, he was in the right place at the right time last Saturday as Salisbury saw off Eastbourne Borough 1-0 at the Raymond McEnhill Stadium.

Going into today's round of matches, White was the division's joint second top scorer with five goals in as many games.

It's a remarkable upturn in fortunes for the lad from Harefield whose hopes of a professional career with Saints were shattered by a cruel spate of injuries.

"I speak to (Salisbury manager) Darrell Clarke a couple of times a week and I've also spoken to Jamie who says we re-invented him at Winchester," said McCarthy.

"Jamie was on the scrapheap



PAUL MCCARTHY: Delighted by Jamie White's start to the season for Salisbury.

when we got hold of him and we made him believe in himself again.

"We got him fit and he rewarded us with 54 goals and we're all delighted that he's carrying that on with Salisbury."

Although it's a three-level jump from the Sydenhams Premier to the Conference South, White has actually got off to a better start with Salisbury than he did when he first arrived at Winchester ten games into last season following a stint in Australia.

"Jamie didn't score in his first couple of games for us, so he's already ahead on the stats," said McCarthy.

"I think he'll score 30-odd goals for Salisbury this season and I really hope he does. He deserves it after so much bad luck."

"Jamie's a player, not a commodity, but if he does get sold on from Salisbury it's nice to know that Winchester will be looked after because we've got a sell-on clause."

White's dramatic winner

against Eastbourne last Saturday came just in the nick of time.

The Sussex visitors, managed by former Salisbury boss and ex-Saint Tommy Widdington, proved a hard nut to crack until the arrival of fit-again City substitute Robbie Matthews.

With 84 minutes on the clock Matthews put White through on goal and, although keeper Danny Potter blocked his first attempt, the menacing marksman was alert to the rebound as City maintained their 100 per cent start at the Ray Mac.

Admitting it was an irritating game of football, Clarke – awarded the BSB South manager-of-the-month award for August – said: "I am just pleased to have got the result we wanted in the end."

"It was an incredibly frustrating afternoon and we need to keep on progressing and improving."

"We made a similar start to last season but, although we're top, we must carry on taking each game as it comes."

New boy Garyn Preen, signed on a non-contract basis, was given a run-out towards the end.

Clarke was impressed with the former Saints youngster, 20, who has represented Wales at under-17 and 19 level and played for Burton Albion and Welsh outfit Neath.

"He did well when he came on," said the boss. "Garyn is working really hard to try to earn himself a full-time contract."

The Whites have been handed a trip to Sydenhams Premier outfit Newport IoW in the FA Cup second qualifying round next Saturday.

LOCAL CRICKET ON PAGE 36

Non-league Football

Hot-shot Feeney staying put at Totton

HE'S one of the hottest strike properties in the Sydenhams League and he is ambitious to play higher.

But, for the moment, 20-year-old frontrunner Craig Feeney is convinced Totton & Eling is the most sensible place to be.

The trainee electrician is in the last year of an apprenticeship with the Berthon Boat Company in Lymington and, right now, that is his number one priority.

It doesn't matter how many Southern League clubs coming knocking at his door, the youngster is adamant he will not be moving onwards and upwards until next season at the very earliest.

Feeney had a brief taste of the Southern League high life with Gosport Borough towards the end of last season, featuring as an early substitute in their South & West play-off final victory at Poole Town.

He initially agreed to dual-sign again for the Southern Premier new boys, but later met with Gosport manager Alex Pike to explain his work situation and said he didn't want to be constantly hopping between two changing rooms.

It was mutually agreed he would stay with Totton & Eling this season and review things once he finishes his apprenticeship.

"I played six or seven games for Gosport including the play-off final when I went on as a sub after ten minutes when Dan Wooden got injured," he said.

"They wanted me to dual-sign this season but I said I didn't want to be in two changing rooms and that I'd prefer to stay at Totton & Eling, get more experience and then move up.

"Alex Pike agreed with me that it could have been disruptive (playing for both clubs) and that it was best to get more experience where I am.

"Alex said he liked me and they were keen to have me there, but they've got such a good strikeforce with people like Justin Bennett."

Last season Feeney not only got the benefit of playing alongside Bennett, but also Football League veteran Steve Claridge who finally hung up his boots at the age of 46 after helping Gosport realise their Premier Division dream.

"Being at Gosport taught me a lot," said Feeney. "Justin Bennett's a great player and I couldn't believe I was playing alongside Steve Claridge!

Wendy Gee

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

"The thing I learned from Steve was how calm he is on the ball. At 46, he's not the quickest, but he knows how not to lose the ball and he knows what other people are doing."

It's not just Gosport who have provided Feeney with a kind of role model most young Wessex players could only dream of learning from.

Since arriving at Totton & Eling from Fawley AFC the youngster has benefited from the coaching expertise of ex-Saints and Norway forward Jo Tessem who works alongside Kev Dawtry, Chris Tona and Andy Tipp on the management team and still plays the occasional game.

Working with Tessem is another 'pinch me' moment for the former Hardley schoolboy who first turned out for local side Fawley Falcons as an under-8.

This season has started much like the last for Feeney who already has seven goals to his name even though he missed the start of the campaign on holiday.

Unusually, four of those goals have been headers and the youngster has credited Tessem with helping to develop that side of his game.

At 5ft 10in Feeney is not the tallest, but he has learned that positional awareness can be just as valuable as height.

"I'd never really focused on heading because it's not my side of the game. I'm more about speed, running at people and racing between defenders," he said.

"But I did a bit of work on it in pre-season and Jo's helped me with that.

"Three of the headers I've scored have come from corners. Jo's told me how to judge my movement, where I should go and what to do.

"We try to get three big lads into the box so that defenders focus on them and not me."

Such has been Feeney's impact at Totton & Eling that manager Kev Dawtry's phone rings on a daily basis with enquiries about him.

But he said: "Craig's not going anywhere at the moments so it would be best if they retire from ringing me!

"Unless we get promoted everyone at Totton & Eling accepts Craig will move on at some time and I wouldn't be one to say he should sign against next year if Gosport or, say, AFC Totton come in.

"But with his apprenticeship, he's not going to be able to do it at the moment."

Smith is more than just a sub

WIMBORNE Town boss Steve Cuss insists he sees prolific Steve Smith as much more than just a super sub.

Smith again lived up to his billing as one of the area's best impact strikers by coming off the bench to fire a match-winning double for the Magpies in their result at Abingdon last Saturday.

It was reminiscent of his heroics for his previous club Poole Town where he netted an impressive 143 goals in 265 games – a whopping 142 of those appearances coming off the bench.

Leading through Matt Kemble's 43rd-minute opener, Wimborne replaced their scorer with Smith midway through the second half.

The ex-Dolphin immediately made an impact on the game, turning the ball home from the six-yard line following good work by Jamie Davidson on the right.

Five minutes later he added a second, running onto a through ball and drawing the goalkeeper before placing a low shot into the corner of the net.

Abingdon quickly reduced the arrears when ex-Andover man Curtis Angell curled a free kick over the Wimborne wall.



STEVE CUSS

But the Magpies defence held firm for a result which leapfrogged them over Winchester City into second in the Southern One South & West.

"Steve took his chances very well," said Cuss. "If he gets chances we know, and are confident, he can score goals.

"I don't think he likes the 'super sub' tag and I certainly don't see him as a sub. He has started games for us already and will start plenty more."

After the struggles of the previous couple of seasons, Wimborne's start to 2012/13 has been a breath of fresh air for the Dorset outfit.

But Cuss said: "It's early days. We haven't set any targets.

"We are trying to establish a way of playing and enjoy ourselves. We will see where it takes us."

● Wimborne are staging a benefit match for former Magpies, Bashley and Poole Town player Andy Cullford later this month.

The popular 34-year-old midfielder has a form of motor neurone disease and funds are being raised for an expensive new drug which should help pause the disease and improve his present condition.

A mixed team of Poole and Wimborne players will face an AFC Bournemouth side at Cutbury on Thursday, September 27 (7.30pm). Entry is £5 adults and £1 under-16s.

HOT PROSPECT: Totton & Eling striker Craig Feeney.

ALL TODAY'S NON-LEAGUE SCORES: PAGE 48

Non-league Football



OPPORTUNITY MISSED:
Graham Kemp.

We blew 3K, says Kemp

GRAHAM Kemp felt Christchurch had wasted a major opportunity to cash in on their fine early-season form after crashing out of the FA Cup.

Priory's hopes of progressing beyond the first qualifying round and pocketing a further £3,000 in prize money ended in disappointment at Fareham Town last Saturday.

Christchurch went into the clash against their Sydenhams Premier rivals as firm favourites but found themselves on the end of a 2-1 Cams Alders defeat.

Sam Griffin's equaliser appeared to have earned them a replay after Danny Thompson had given Fareham an early second-half lead.

But a James Roden goal five minutes from time ruined Christchurch's unbeaten start to the campaign.

Kemp reflected: "We probably had the better of the first half and we missed a couple of good opportunities."

"But we didn't really come out of the blocks in the second half."

"Both of the goals we conceded were disappointing from our perspective."

"Sam Griffin equalised with a quarter-of-an-hour to go and I felt we would get away with what was not our best performance."

"It was the first kick in the teeth for the lads this season."

"I could tell from their reaction that they knew it was a missed opportunity and that is taking nothing away from Fareham."

Fareham boss Matt Parr also felt his side could have played better but was delighted to have ground out a result.

"We were far below our best in the first half, but during the interval I told the lads to keep cool and things would change in their favour as the match wore on," he said.

"It was a real cup tie in every sense. We have taken on and beaten a competitive side."

Priory had been hoping to put their FA Cup frustration behind them on Tuesday with a morale-boosting win over Stockbridge in the Hampshire FA Senior Cup.

But, with the score still 0-0 at Hurn Bridge, the tie was abandoned at half-time due to a floodlight failure.

MONKEY DOING THE BUSINESS FOR FAREHAM

MATT Parr says an injection of Southampton steel has made all the difference to Fareham Town this season.

Although the manager has always had faith in the Reds' footballing ability, he was concerned they were "a bit of a soft touch".

But since drafting in Southampton-based duo James Roden and Craig Shrimpton, Fareham have toughened up considerably.

No-nonsense midfielder Roden – affectionately known as Monkey – signed from GE Hamble during the summer having previously been part of Stuart Ritchie's Wessex title-winning AFC Totton squad.

Right-back/centre-back Shrimpton, meanwhile, has spent the last few seasons playing in the New Forest area for Brockenhurst and Lymington Town.

Both players were instrumental last Saturday as Fareham, forced to line up without a recognised striker, saw off lofty Sydenhams Premier rivals Christchurch 2-1 in the FA Cup first qualifying round.

Before their trip to Cams Alders, Graham Kemp's Priory had won all seven of their league and cup outings this term.

But having seen Danny Thompson's 50th-minute opener wiped out by Sam Griffin, it was Fareham who scooped the £3,000 prize money and a home tie against Blackfield & Langley thanks to a late goal from Roden.

"James has done really well for us," said Parr.

"He missed the first few weeks of pre-season so he's been a bit behind with his fitness, but he's been a great asset to us."

"He wanted a fresh challenge and knows the great support we get at this club."

"He knew we didn't have the finances, but he just wanted to play."

"James and Craig have given us that bit of strength we didn't have before and made us harder to beat."

"They bring us a greater physical presence and mental resolve."

"I didn't know either of them beforehand, they were just lads who'd impressed me when they'd played against us and I let them know I'd appreciated their efforts."

"They were the two players I targeted and I got them both."

"The only other player I signed was Bryn McKie who came back to us from Horndean. Otherwise I've kept the same team from last season and it's the

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first time I've been able to do that since I've been at Fareham."

While Parr is the first to admit that Town weren't at their best against Christchurch, the new, grittier side of their game got them through.

"We showed that even when we're below our best, we can dig in and get a result," he said.

"That's something new about us this season. We've taken the soft touch away, which is what we need if we're going to go from being a top-six to a top-three Wessex side."

"You can play good football, but you need that bit of resolve about you if you are going to compete at the top."

Having added Christchurch's FA Cup scalp to that of Southern League outfit Wimborne Town, Parr is delighted to have landed home advantage next Saturday for the second qualifying round visit of divisional rivals

Blackfield.

"It's a great draw because it means that one of us (Wessex clubs) is going through," he said.

"It's a 50-50 tie. Blackfield are a quality side on paper, but they've had a mixed bag of results."

"At home I would fancy us to beat anyone. We've got great support and that plays an important part as well."

"It's great for all the volunteers who have been at the club for a long time."

Hopefully Fareham should have their strike force back in harness by then. Ashley Tattersall missed the Christchurch game due to a wedding, Rob Tambling is just coming back from a wrist injury and Graham Lindsey was restricted to a brief appearance off the bench against Priory having been sidelined with knee trouble.

The club also hope for a swift return for Louie Martin who collapsed with breathing problems during last Saturday's game and was found to have a rib injury. "We wish Louis well and hope he will recover quickly," said Parr.

McKie was Fareham's stand-out performer as a much-changed side beat Fawley AFC 2-0 in the Hampshire FA Senior Cup. McKie scored the first and the second was a Lindsey flick that went in off a defender.

By strange coincidence they now host Blackfield in the second round on October 9!



MIDFIELD STEEL:
James Roden.

Town's kick up the backside

THE Blue Square Bet South's last surviving unbeaten record went up in smoke last Saturday as Basingstoke Town slipped to a disappointing 2-0 home defeat at the hands of newly-promoted AFC Hornchurch.

It was comfortably the poorest performance put in by a Town side in Jason Bristow's time as manager.

The north Hampshire club were unable to deal with a physical Hornchurch outfit and devoid of ideas going forward.

They fell behind to a penalty seven minutes before the end of a turgid first half and conceded a second on the counter-attack just after the hour.

"We were found wanting today," admitted Bristow, left, afterwards. "Individually and collectively it was not good enough."

"We have not played well for an entire 90 minutes all season. It's something we need to look at and figure out."

"But hopefully this will be the kick up the backside we needed. The players knew it was not an acceptable performance and can't wait to get back on the pitch and put things right."

A spate of early-season injuries have not helped Basingstoke's cause.

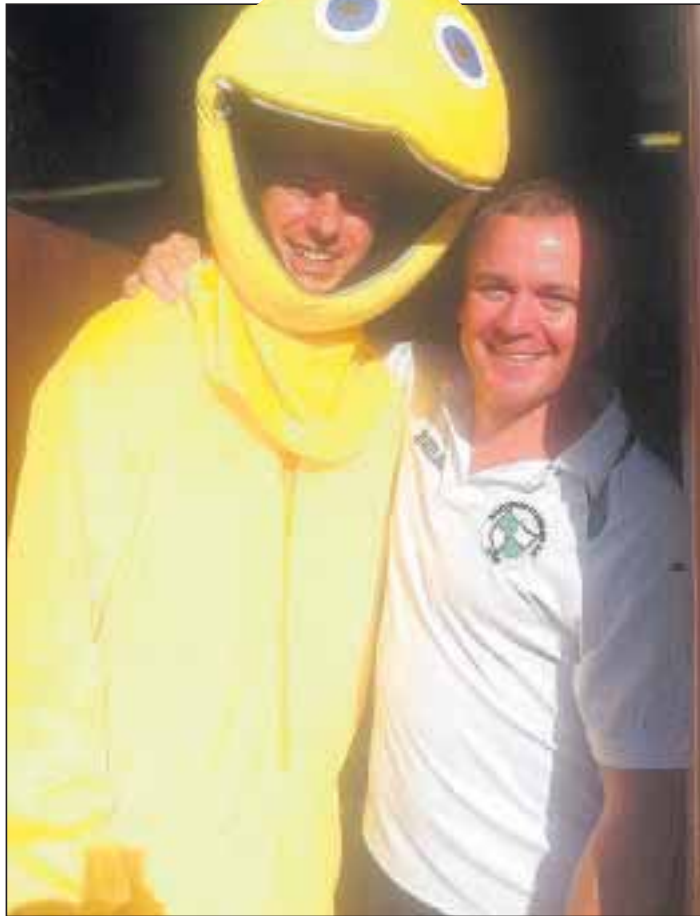
"If any team were missing players of the calibre of Ashley Bayes, Shaun McAuley, Tim Sills, Delano Sam-Yorke, Nathan Smart, Jordace Holder-Spooner, Jide Ogunbote and Stuart Lake, they would miss them greatly. To have them all missing at the same time really hurts the squad," said Bristow.

"Maybe it was a game too far for our stretched squad, but the players we had out there should be doing better."

"They should be good enough and it's frustrating that we are not at the level we should be at."

Non-league Football

'BUNGLE' LANDS BOSS VICKERS IN ZIPPY SUIT



DRESSED TO IMPRESS: Blackfield & Langley boss Ashley Vickers as Zippy with his assistant manager Glenn Burnett.

ASHLEY Vickers might be a stickler for discipline, but no one could accuse him of lacking a sense of humour.

The strapping 6ft 3in centre-back was made to dress up as children's TV character 'Zippy' after watching his Blackfield & Langley side march into the second qualifying round of the FA Cup by beating Almondsbury UWE 4-0 at Gang Warily.

The giant yellow costume was brought to the Waterside club by one of Vickers' management team members, John McFarlane, who moved to Gang Warily during the summer with assistant boss Glenn Burnett.

The pair regularly frequented fancy dress shops during previous spells with Romsey and New Milton as a way of lightening the dressing room atmosphere and encouraging team bonding.

The £60 'Zippy' costume is regularly donned by the member of the Blackfield squad who has done 'the most stupid thing' on a matchday.

"John nominates three people for doing something stupid," Burnett explained.

"In the second half against Almondsbury we played some lovely football and one of the lads was nominated for giving the ball away and ending a 35-pass move!

"But it was Ash who got to wear it because he was on call with his job and had a work call to make.

"He went to run out of the dressing room but we slammed the door on him and he had to put the costume on.

"There he was, the strapping, 6ft 3in, no-nonsense Ashley Vickers dressed in a Zippy costume with a massive head!"

After inheriting a shambolic disciplinary record when he took over at Blackfield midway through last season, ex-St Albans, Dagenham & Redbridge and Weymouth defender Vickers was determined to restore some order - on and off the pitch.

But the Watersiders management team are aware that, at Sydenhams Premier level, football has to be about enjoyment too - hence the penchant for fancy dress.

"We've always done little things like that to help bond the dressing room," Burnett explained.

"When you've got a new group of players together it's important to create team spirit.

"If we were to pop up a couple of

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leagues we probably wouldn't get away with it, but we'll keep getting the Zippy costume out all the time we're in the Wessex.

"We did the same thing at New Milton but we used to start off with one costume and add a different item to it every week. In the end they were wearing all sorts!

"John has to give his reasons when he's nominating people and they can't appeal because, if they do, they get a huge fine."

Blackfield will be hoping for several more fancy dress days to come in the FA Cup.

'There he was, the strapping 6ft 3in Ashley Vickers dressed in a Zippy costume with a massive head'

Having so far banked £5,750 for victories over AFC Portchester, Downton and Almondsbury, they have a realistic chance of adding another £4,500 to the kitty by beating league rivals Fareham Town at Cams Alders next Saturday (September 22).

Not that Burnett is taking anything for granted after watching goals by Ekow Elliott (2), Nathan Lynch and Max Crow get the better of their Western League Division One visitors last Saturday.

"I've got mixed feelings about the draw," said Burnett.

"It's good to get a team at the same level that we know a bit about and would have a chance against, although a Salisbury City or someone with a decent following would have been nice at home," he said.

"If we play well and get some luck, who knows we might still get a nice tie.

"But Fareham are once again a force in the Wessex, so we will have to be at our very best to stand a chance of progressing."

The only down side of Blackfield's win over Almondsbury was the late sending off of Dave Ewen for going head to head with an opposition player.

"There was a coming together, but it was only a slight brush of heads, and the referee sent him off," said Burnett.

Non-league News

Win Chalk-ed up
BEMERTON Heath Harlequins needed only a solitary goal to take three Sydenhams Premier points at New Milton Town last Saturday.

Midway through the second half substitute Jack Eves' free kick was headed back by Jack Slade for Danny Young to nod in from six yards.

"New Milton are a new side and they play a lot of football, but they don't hurt you," said Harlequins boss Ian Chalk, pictured.

"We played to our strengths and could have won by more."

Chalk, though, did acknowledge that Charlie Street, who replaced the unavailable Grant Porter in goal, made "two or three fantastic saves."

Street was in fact beaten on one occasion, but Ian Proctor hit the woodwork for the luckless Linnets.

Bemerton are not in action again now until Monday week (September 24) when they entertain Horndean in the league.

"It makes a mockery of starting the season so early," said Chalk. "We are used to playing twice a week in August and September."

Downton in pole
DOWNTON claimed pole position in the Sydenhams Premier Division with a 2-0 victory at rock-bottom Romsey Town last Saturday.

It wasn't the most convincing of performances by the Robins, but a Vince Rusher penalty and Nic Turpin's, pictured, seventh goal of the season saw them through

against Danny Barker's rebuilt Romsey side.

"We didn't play our best, but Romsey made it hard for us," said manager Jeff Softley.

"They are a new, young team and I think they will definitely stay up.

"Winning without playing particularly well is the sign of a good side.

"We are top but there is a long way to go."

Downton return to league action at Alton Town on September 25.

Ek of a victory ...

BLACKFIELD & Langley's good week continued on Tuesday with a 1-0 Sydenhams Premier win over newly-promoted Verwood Town at Gang Warily.

The Watersiders were not at their best, but a goal after just 50 seconds was enough to seal the three points and move them up to 12th in the table.

Ekow Elliott - two-goal hero of Saturday's 4-0 FA Cup win over Almondsbury UWE - this time turned provider.

His cross eluded Verwood keeper Freddie Toomer and Paul Preston, pictured, was there to stab it home.

"We were a bit under par, but we'll take the 1-0," said assistant manager Glenn Burnett.

"But, saying that, I think Verwood will upset a few this season. They played some nice football."

Winger Elliott is proving something of a revelation this season, but Burnett admits he knows little about him.

"All I know is that he comes from the Bournemouth area," he said. "When I asked Ash (manager Ashley Vickers) about him, he said he was sent from God!"



TURN TO BACK PAGE FOR TODAY'S NON-LEAGUE RESULTS

Non-league Football

Bill's not to blame

ANDY Leader does not blame his former Lymington Town charge Billy Puckett for signing for Sydenhams Premier Division rivals Christchurch.

In fact the Southampton Road boss says that if he were Puckett's dad, that's exactly what he would have advised him to do.

Lymington, GE Hamble, New Milton and Alresford are all believed to have shown an interest in signing the 23-year-old frontman following his return from Australia where he was playing with Whitsunday Miners in the Queensland State League.

His move Down Under followed a long and arduous comeback from a serious knee injury sustained on his Lymington debut against Laverstock & Ford on the opening day of the 2010/11 campaign.

The Hussey brothers, Stuart and Matt, were in charge of the side at that point. But by the time Puckett was ready to return to action, Leader – the man who first gave him his Wessex break at Christchurch – had taken over as boss.

Much as Leader would have loved Puckett to have added to the 11 Wessex starts he made for Town last season, he fully supports his decision to join a Christchurch side pushing for the Premier title.

"I spoke to Bill when he came back from Australia and he had the courtesy to ring me and tell me he was signing for Christchurch," said Leader.

"I can understand that. They're further down the line as a club than we are.

"Bill's got an affinity to both clubs – probably a bit more to Christchurch because I had him there as a kid.

"They're a great club and Kempy (Christchurch boss Graham Kemp) has done a terrific job there.

"If I was Bill's dad I'd be telling him to go to Christchurch."

Puckett's father is, in fact, ex-Saints and AFC Bournemouth frontman Dave, who was himself on the coaching staff at Lymington during the Husseys' reign and even made a handful of appearances off the subs' bench, scoring one Wessex goal.

Leader wishes Puckett junior nothing but the

best and said: "Lymington did their bit and helped nurture Bill back to fitness before he went to Australia and I'm so pleased he's fit and playing again.

"All I want is for these young lads to be playing and enjoying themselves. No one deserves that more than Bill."

Christchurch boss Kemp is delighted to welcome Puckett into the Priory fold.

He said: "Bill emailed me six weeks before he got back from Australia.

"Hamble, New Milton, Lymington and Alresford were all interested, but he decided to join us.

"Bill had a serious injury, but he's come back from Australia looking fit and sharp and he tells me he's already played 20 games so far this season.

"Bill's got natural ability. You can see it a mile off."



PUCKETT

Hill: I'm not inexperienced as a manager



FLASH-BACK: Richard Hill during his time at Watford in 1987.

EASTLEIGH manager Richard Hill will benefit from his experience of working with John Gregory, Brian Little and Andy Hessenthaler as he attempts to steer the Spitfires into the Conference.

The former Stevenage Borough boss has spent most of his career working under Gregory, Little and Hessenthaler with the likes of QPR, Tranmere and Gillingham.

He believes that experience will serve him well as the manager of Eastleigh. "John, Brian and Hussy are all friends of mine, we've stayed in touch and they've contributed to this day, they're rooting for us and will give me any help they can," said Hill, who first worked with Gregory at Wycombe after beginning his coaching career at Reading under Jimmy Quinn and Mick Gooding in the mid nineties.

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"John's an unbelievable coach, we got to know each other through doing our coaching badges together. I was working with him [at FC Kairat] in Kazakhstan for six months until Christmas.

"It was a real eye opener.

"Over there, the manager is a director of football type and the coach is like a manger so a lot of the day-to-day business was left to myself under John's guidance."

Hill has benefited from having more responsibility than most managerial deputies since his spell as manager of Stevenage, then in the Conference, in the late nineties.

He worked at Gillingham under player-manager Hessenthaler from 2000-03, when the Kent outfit was enjoying its best period in the club's history as a mid-table club in what is now the Championship.

"I've been fortunate to work with some very good clubs and very good people and my time at Gillingham was very successful," Hill continues.

"It was the first time they'd ever

been in the Championship managed to keep them there for three seasons.

"Hussy's a great fella, he helped me and allowed me to be a manager."

"Being an assistant to a manager is a difficult, difficult job because you have to try and guess what he's thinking and what he would do so there has to be a dialogue.

"With him playing, the management fell to me. I have a vast experience of day-to-day management at the Championship level.

"That is the hardest part of the job so I'm not inexperienced as a manager."

Following his time at Gillingham, Hill joined former Aston Villa legend Steve Hogg at Tranmere from 2003-06.

"Brian was also quite a good manager. He allowed me to structure training and have my own mind and I've been fortunate to work with some very good coaches and managers who have allowed me to express myself on a day-to-day basis on the training ground.

"Working with Brian

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Non-league Football



EXPERIENCED: New manager Richard Hill at Eastleigh's Silverlake Stadium this week.



FLASHBACK: Richard Hill pictured during his time at Oxford United.

unbelievable education. We went to Tranmere in the October when we were bottom [of what is now League One] but we got to the FA Cup quarter-finals only to lose a replay against Millwall the year they reached the final against Manchester United.

"The things I've seen Brian do tactically sometimes defied belief. We came down to Bournemouth for one game on a red hot Bank Holiday and were 1-0 up at half-time without playing particularly well.

"He had the courage to make three substitutions at half-time and I shook my head at him, I thought he'd gone mad! But we ended up winning the game 5-1. We tore them to bits."

Hill prefers not to discuss his playing career as a midfielder that included notable spells at Northampton and Oxford as well as a brief stint at Watford in the 1980s.

"I don't tend to elaborate much on that because that's finished, but who knows what would have happened if I didn't have to finish my career abruptly with a serious knee injury at 28," added the 48-year-old.

Baird wound down with Eastleigh so off field politics

DEPARTED Eastleigh boss Ian Baird says he needs a bit of time to take stock before plotting his return to football.

While the end of his five-year reign as Spitfires boss came as a bitter disappointment to the 48-year-old ex-Saint, there was a tangible sense of relief that an increasingly stressful chapter in his career had been brought to a close.

Having wooed Baird from south coast rivals Havant & Waterlooville in October 2007, Eastleigh were rewarded with a promising sixth-placed finish in the Blue Square Bet South.

The following season was better still with the Spitfires soaring to an all-time high of third spot, only to have their promotion hopes crushed in the play-offs.

That was to be the closest Baird came to realising Eastleigh's dreams of delivering Conference National football to Stoneham Lane with the club finishing 11th and 8th in the following two seasons.

With the recession biting and the club favouring a change of direction, Eastleigh released the majority of their senior players last summer and launched a player development scheme comprising a handful of youngsters who trained full time.

Baird likened his challenge to "climbing Everest in flip-flops" but, after a tricky start, results had just started to pick up when Bridle Insurance arrived on the scene with ambitious plans to turn Eastleigh into a Football League club.

Player recruitment began immediately with Bridle directors Stewart Donald and Neil Fox giving Baird the go-ahead to draft in quality reinforcements like Damian Scannell, Mitchell Nelson and Daryl McMahon.

There was no pressure on Baird to produce instant results, it was all about mounting a major promotion push this season.

Another 11 players of proven Football League/Conference ability were snapped up during the summer, prompting league sponsors Blue Square to install the Spitfires favourites as 4/1 title favourites.

But with rival clubs determined to cut the 'big spenders' down to size, Baird always knew he was on a hiding to nothing if results didn't go as planned.

A 3-0 opening day defeat at Boreham Wood was hardly the best of starts, but there were grounds for optimism when, after 1-1 at home with Basingstoke, Eastleigh banged in six goals without reply to see off Weston-super-Mare and Havant & Waterlooville.

However, the alarm bells began ringing again when they were physically overpowered by Dover in a costly 25-minute spell at the Silverlake.

And, although they were desperately unlucky to lose 1-0 at Dorchester four days later, last Saturday's 4-0 shambles at Billericay drove the final nail into the manager's coffin.

After a Monday afternoon board meeting at the Silverlake, Baird was called in for a chat with Donald who told him it was "time for a new direction."

Baird had only good things to say about the Bridle pair, acknowledging: "Stewart Donald has been an absolute gentleman and unbelievably supportive. He's been spot on with me, as has Neil Fox, and I've no issues with them

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whatsoever.

"As I said to Stewart, I don't agree with the decision, but I respect it."

It was the events prior to Donald and Fox's arrival that had really begun to wear Baird down.

He often said the Spitfires' expectation levels were unrealistically high for a club that, just a decade ago, was playing its trade in the Wessex League.

Anonymous supporters spouting their opinions on the fans' forum was another of his pet hates and he famously dubbed them "faceless internet gangsters."

And he was less than impressed in January 2011 when he discovered Eastleigh had sounded out ex-Salisbury boss Tommy Widdrington about possible future interest in the manager's job.

Reflecting on his time at the club, Baird – who signed a contract until the end of this season following 'Widdringtongate' – said: "I need to gather my thoughts a bit now because it's been quite stressful at Eastleigh – particularly over the last two years.

"It was like a breath of fresh air when Stewart and Foxy came in, they've been more than helpful, but it's been one battle after another.

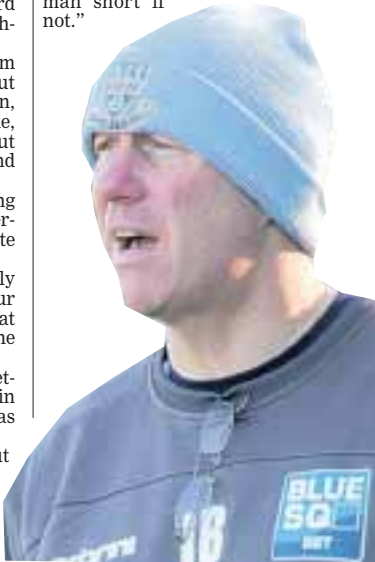
"Overall I enjoyed my time there, but not the last two years. There's been so much politics in the background and it's been non-stop dealing with that."

Baird, partner in a scaffolding firm and a property rental business, said: "Leaving Eastleigh hasn't left me unemployed, but it has certainly left a void."

Thanking Baird for his services, Fox said: "He's a terrific guy and it was nice to read his comments about us in The Echo this week. We genuinely have the utmost respect for each other.

"We are certain Ian will be back in football very soon.

"The game will be a man short if not."



Whit a start for United's Ritchie!

BROCKENHURST and Whitchurch United were the big winners on the opening day of the Sydenhams Division One season.

Newly-relegated Laverstock & Ford were knocked for six at Whitchurch's

Longmeadow ground, while Brock eased to a 5-0 home win over Amesbury Town.

Lee Clark headed Brock's opener 11 minutes in and Darren Ritchie made it 2-0 three minutes later.

Ritchie then rounded Amesbury keeper Danny Harrison on 36 minutes and Carlo Tate's header made it 4-0 five minutes before half-time.

Ritchie completed his hat-trick on the hour, compounding a miserable couple of weeks for Amesbury who were blitzed 6-0 at Fareham in the FA Vase and had their clubhouse broken into.

Whitchurch went one better with a 6-0 win over Laverstock courtesy of Tom



Pemberton, George Dallarda, Paul Coventry (2) and Isaac Sedu (2).

PEMBERTON

Lavvy's cause wasn't helped when, at 2-0 down, they lost keeper Luke Donohue to an ankle injury and had to put an outfielder in goal.

Pemberton's strike – a 35-yard screamer – was the pick of the bunch.

"It was a great way to start and we scored some lovely goals," said Whitchurch boss Jim Macey. "Tom's is probably the goal-of-the-season already."

Team Solent kicked off the new campaign with a Declan Edwards-inspired 3-1 win over Stockbridge.

Fielding new signings Bradley Benson and Cole Hincliffe, Stockbridge went close to opening the scoring, but hit the post.

It was Solent who went in 1-0 up at the break through Edwards and, though Stockbridge equalised with ten minutes remaining, Edwards scored twice more to complete his hat-trick.

On Tuesday the Southampton Solent University side held Premier outfit Alton Town 3-3 after extra time in the Hampshire FA Senior Cup, but Alton triumphed 4-2 on penalties.

Local Football

Bland is on song in Italy

■ GOLF

STONEHAM'S Richard Bland rocketed to the top of the leaderboard in the BMW Italian Open on Friday.

The Southampton-based player led the European Tour event at the halfway stage, having carded successive rounds of six-under-par.

Bland produced birdies at his final three holes in the afternoon to take sole possession of first place. He was one shot clear of a group of four players on 11-under-par.

Following his round, Bland said: "There's still 36 holes to go – all it is right now is a great



position.

"There are great players behind me, it's low scoring, so two 70s isn't going to get it done.

"I'll probably have to shoot ten under from here, but that's a good thing.

"You've got to keep making birdies, you have to keep your foot on the accelerator."

He added: "I'm leading and I'm not going to complain, but I feel there's a lot of room of improvement.

"When you don't feel like you've got your A-game and you're 12 under and leading, it's fantastic.

"If I can get my swing clicked into place, it should be a good weekend."

● Bland followed up his two 66s with a third-round 71 on Saturday but was still tied for fifth place.

Home draw

HOLDERS Christchurch have been handed a home draw in the third round of the Sydenhams League Cup.

Graham Kemp's men, who beat Brockenhurst in last season's final, will host Premier Division rivals Blackfield & Langley at Hurn Bridge.

SL Cup, third round draw:
Bournemouth Poppies v Fleet Spurs, AFC Portchester v Lymington Town, US Portsmouth v Stockbridge, Hythe & Diden v East Cowes Vics v Alton Town, Totton & Eling v Brockenhurst, Alresford Town v Team Solent, Newport IoW v Hayling Utd, Christchurch v Blackfield & Langley.



HEADS UP: Action from the Hayward Saturday League clash between Sway and Bournemouth Manor.

Goodwin's strike seals it for Manor

SAM Goodwin settled the issue 1-0 for reigning HAYWARD SATURDAY PREMIER champions Bournemouth Manor against Sway while Westover Bournemouth also have maximum points after Clive Stopper and Wayne Nagy gave them the edge 2-1 against Parley Sports.

Portcastrian are the early leaders though after River Smith struck twice in their 4-1 victory over Redlynch & Woodfalls United with the other goals coming from Tim Constable and Ryan Bladen.

Joe Kittle and Mike Wynne gave Bournemouth Electric the verdict 2-1 against Allendale and Old Oameadians were also 2-1 winners against Bournemouth Poppies thanks to Lee Wilkins and James Carter.

Mudford Mens Club finished all

square for the second week running when Chris Forbes earned them a 1-1 draw with Hamworthy Recreation. Tim Porter was the Hammers' scorer.

Ferndown Sports lead DIVISION ONE on goal difference after Shaun Steer, Ollie Bolton, and Darren Facer gave them the verdict 3-2 against Harrington United while Mike Thompson led the way with a hat-trick when Richmond Park Con walloped Bournemouth Electric Reserves 7-1 with Mark Pudney (2), Mike Barber, and Paul Barber also on target.

Mark Lilley, James Totczyk, and Darren Clark bagged two each when Sway Reserves gave New Milton Linnets a 6-0 drubbing to go two points clear at the top of DIVISION TWO.

Steve Newman scored both St Mary's goals in their 2-0 win over Mploy while Jason Cliffe's double

strike gave Bournemouth Manor Reserves a 2-1 success against Westover Bournemouth Reserves.

Peter Valinski's hat-trick was not quite enough to save Redhill Rangers from a 4-3 defeat against DIVISION THREE pacesetters AFC Pennington whose goals came via Stuart Sims (2) and Ezekiel Rink (2).

Dave Horgan was AFC Burton's hat-trick hero in their 6-0 spanking of Queens Park Athletic Reserves with the other goals coming from Ryan Brading (2) and Sam Cook.

Bisterne Blue Sox maintained their excellent start in DIVISION FOUR when Craig Frost (2) and Sean Leadbetter accounted for Pig & Whistle 3-2.

Dan Pringle's hat-trick for Magpies was to no avail when Burley overwhelmed them 8-3 thanks to Dave Sajic, Dan Billing, Phil Matthews, Darren Mein, and a

four goal blast from Nick Howes.

George Berry rattled in four when West Howe walloped Witchampton 10-1 in DIVISION FIVE with Aiden Goodenough (2), Darren Berry (2), Ben King, and Aaron Bunn completing the rout.

A & T Athletic were also in rampant form, trouncing Bournemouth A 10-0 courtesy of Liam Holland's hat-trick and further goals from Crispin Rigler (2), Reece Derby (2), Dan Clements, Jamie Tuvey, and Dean Cook.

Boldre Royals are setting the pace in DIVISION SIX after Darren Drodge and Liam Black scored two apiece to subdue Fordingbridge Turks Reserves 4-2.

Alderholt Reserves also have maximum points after their 5-2 victory over Everton & Lymington Argyle thanks to Tom Davies' hat-trick and a couple of goals from James Wood.

Southampton Saints Girls and Ladies football

Seven up for Saints at Oakwood

SOUTHAMPTON Saints' under-15s began their New Forest Girls League season in style with a 7-0 victory at Oakwood Foxes at Test Park.

It was only 2-0 at the break, Foxes having defended well.

Megan Chapman scored first, a powerful low strike from a narrow angle finding the far corner.

Foxes fought back and Saints keeper Courtney Trodd made a good save from a well-struck free kick.

Lisbeth Mottashed scored the second with a cross which sailed over the stranded keeper.

Saints forced several corners before sub Belinda Villa had a header saved

and then shot over having been set up by another sub, Martha Phillips.

On a large, flat pitch, Saints were playing some neat passing football, and Elle Pearce down the left flank was regularly beating her full-back and getting in some excellent crosses.

Saints strikers should have made better use of these, Paris Payne shooting over, Chapman firing wide, and Mottashed picking out the keeper.

Sub Villa then came on and with almost her first touch showed how to capitalise on a Pearce cross, bundling the ball into the net.

Another superb Pearce cross was converted by Chapman for 4-0.

Mottashed hit the post, before Pearce deservedly scored.

Saints were rampant now, and Villa added a sixth from a Pearce cross.

Skipper Tiffany Eley then set up Payne, who had put in a very energetic display on a very hot day for a cool finish.

Saints boss Peter Horne said: "The scoreline might indicate that our defence had nothing to do. In fact, the opposite was the case.

"Oakwood, especially in the first half, attacked strongly with some quality players. However our back four defended very well, with our-keeper showing safe hands and accu-

rate distribution.

"I have three Players of the Match – Elle for setting up so many goal chances, and Charlie Hall and Kayleigh Tonks for doing so much at the back.

"If I have to choose one it is Kayleigh for her excellent concentration and focus throughout the game. Her reading of the game and covering was great!"

Other results: Mudeford Phoenix Flames 5 Wimborne 0, Winchester 8 (Jasmine Sensier 3, Payton Howard 2) Crofton 0, Corfe Mullen 3 Boscombe Albion 1. **Midweek:** Boscombe 0 Mudeford 1, Corfe Mullen 4 Wimborne 0, Winchester 10 (Payton Howard 5) Oakwood 0.



LINE-UP: Southampton Saints under16s/under-17s wre in pre-season friendly action.

YOUNGSTERS TUNE UP WITH ASCOT VICTORY

SOUTHAMPTON Saints under-16/under-17s' final pre-season friendly saw them win 5-1 at Ascot United.

Ascot were second last season in the Surrey League Under 15 Premier Division and also won the Surrey Under 15 FA Cup.

The game was arranged at Saints' request, as they wanted a tough pre-season test.

And so it turned out, despite the scoreline.

Ascot pressed from the start, with Saints panicking a little at the back and not accustomed to such strong forward play.

It was all hands to the pump, and Hannah Knapton, tracking back, fell awkwardly and had to go off with a bruised shoulder. Saints started to

settle after ten minutes and the pressure was further relieved with a breakaway goal, Bonnie Browning setting up Cleo Rawlings for a crisp finish.

Inspired by this, Rawlings' powerful shot was turned over the bar by the excellent Ascot keeper, who followed this with another brilliant save from a shot by Amber Siley.

Ascot managed an equaliser but Knapton, now fit to return, threaded a slide-rule pass through the defence and Rawlings rounded the keeper and shot into the empty net for a 2-1 half-time lead.

Siley had to go off at the interval with a thigh strain, and Olivia Jones took her place in the centre, showing lots of skill, resolve, and heading ability. Saints won 3-1 up when Rebecca Collins' cross was converted by

Rawlings for her hat-trick.

Axton had a low drive turned round the post before Rawlings bagged her fourth from close range to complete a master-class in how to score goals.

Siley was now fit to resume and she hit the post in a goalmouth scramble with the keeper on the floor.

Not to be denied, Siley produced a brilliant solo goal, beating three defenders in a mazy dribble before scoring.

Saints are now looking forward to the Winchester Girls league getting underway and will face sides from Winchester, Widdbrook, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight.

HAT-TRICK HERO: Cleo Rawlings hit a treble against Ascot.



Keynsham are too powerful

SOUTHAMPTON Saints squandered the chance of third place in the South West Combination Women's League after failing to convert their chances at home to Keynsham.

On the back of a good win the previous week against local rivals Havant and Waterlooville, Saints went into the game in confident mood – maybe too confident!

Keynsham had started the season poorly and this should have been the motivation Saints needed to take all the points.

Leah Holloway's first goal in her second spell for the Saints Ladies after only eight minutes looked to be the catalyst for an onslaught by the home side at BTC Sports Ground.

Keynsham thought otherwise.

The visitors drew level after their long ball tactics paid off. From a ball over the top, the defence were found wanting and keeper Haughton was left with no chance.

Saints regrouped and nearly retook the lead when a Kerri Why corner hit the post.

Chances continued to fall Saints way but with no real threat.

It was the visitors who came closest to winning when Haughton saved a point blank header.

Elsewhere in the division, Portsmouth Uni Ladies were soundly beaten 5-2 at home by Swindon, while Exeter won 2-1 at Plymouth.

Keynsham Town saw off Newquay 5-4 and Forest Green Rovers thrashed Havant 7-0.

One midweek game took place and Swindon Town saw off lowly Gloucester City 3-2.

HOW THEY STAND

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1 Keynsham Town	4	4	0	0	10	12
2 Forest Green	4	3	1	0	14	10
3 Oxford United	4	3	0	1	3	9
4 Swindon Town	4	2	1	1	3	7
5 Plymouth Argyle	4	2	0	2	4	6
6 Exeter City	3	2	0	1	2	6
7 Soton Saints	4	1	2	1	-1	5
8 Portsmouth Uni	2	1	0	1	-2	3
9 Newquay	4	0	1	3	-3	1
10 Keynsham Dev	4	0	1	3	-16	1
11 Gloucester City	3	0	0	3	-6	0
12 Havant & W	2	0	0	2	-8	0

Girls make the switch

AFTER comfortably winning their Winchester Girls League age group, Southampton Saints U12s have decided to enter the strong Under-13 New Forest Girls League.

The move also saw them add a couple of new players and move to nine a side.

In their very first match, on a larger pitch and with bigger goals, they lost 4-2 to Mudeford.

Bex Quinn and skipper Abbie Lee netted for Saints with Andreotti, Crozier, Hayter and Waugh on target for the winners.

Merley Common beat New Forest Cougars 11-0 with Annabel Graham top scoring with four goals.

Bournemouth Poppies beat New Milton 2-1 and Boscombe Albion Rockets defeated Sarum Youth 6-1 helped by a Madi-Mae Hughes hat-trick. Midweek results included Mudeford's 3-1 win at Bournemouth Youth Poppies, Merley Common beating Boscombe Albion Arrows 2-1 and Boscombe Albion Rockets triumphing 1-0 at New Milton Eagles.

Local Football

CITY OF SOUTHAMPTON SUNDAY LEAGUE

A sweet 16 for Blues

SCORING came easy for Sky Blues in Junior Division Six. They continued their rampant start to the season by thrashing Testwood Tornados 16-0.

Bradley Snelling struck five – after scoring twice the previous week – along with hat-tricks from Mason Brown, Matt Carr and Josh Hawkins. Liam Jannaway completed the spree with a double.

Matt Patrick cracked a hat-trick in Southampton Classic's 5-3 win at Sporting Compass Reserves. Ben Wright and Grant Griffiths also netted with David Fry (penalty), Toby Wilkes and Darren Steel replying.

Shazar Rahman bagged a brace in Unity's 4-1 win at Atletico Totton, Will Farr and Jagit Routh also netting for the visitors and Davis Wood replying.

Portside and Netley R.B.L. also played out a goalfest as the hosts came out 5-3 winners.

Two goals apiece for Alex Azadegon and Thomas Kitching, along with a Reece Donovan strike, proved enough. Adam Sear, Adam Dixon and Lawrence Bradley replied.

Village pull off a shock

Junior Division 3 side R.S. Ocean Village pulled off a shock in the Preliminary round of the Southampton Divisional FA Junior 'A' Cup with a 4-3 win over Division 1 side Southampton Bhoys.

A John Longman brace and a goal apiece for Rob Longman and Dan Sanders gave the visitors their unlikely win, despite a Terry Federicks brace and a Carl Squibb effort.

In the other cup tie played, Old Mill beat Totton Town 5-3 in first round of the Southampton Divisional FA Senior Cup.

Old Mill got the win over their Premier Division rivals thanks to a Craig Shellard hat-trick. Ben Bolton also netted with Liam Hanlon (2) and Tom Rafferty replying.

BurrIDGE's flying start

BurrIDGE Youth got their Under-21 Junior Division season under way with a 5-1 win against Michelmersh & Timsbury Youth. A Liam Slade brace was the highlight as Lewis Ranger, Glen Littleboy and Sam Davies also netted.

O'Dells are at the double for Horns

A FAMILY affair helped pacesetters AFC Horns to a second Junior Division 3 win of the season, 5-1 victory against Portswood United.

Scott and Tom O'Dell both scored twice, with Jason Gradidge also on target and George Draper replying.

AFC Riverside claimed a 3-1 win at home against Landguard Rovers through Mike Collins, Cameron Marsh-White and Ted Aplin. Ben Staples (penalty) replied.

Regents Park won 5-3 against Carnival UK with Tom Bower (2), Jake Purdom (2) and Josh

Metcalfe scoring. Mike Manning, Peter Davis and Josh Bench own goal replied.

Chandler's Ford Saints eased to a 2-0 win against LH Galaxy with goals from Alex Bacon and Daniel Charrett.

A Lee Darby hat-trick helped Hampshire Yeoman claim their first win of the season in Junior Division 4.

Dan Sultana netted the other goal for the side in a 4-0 win against Eastpoint.

AFC Portswood moved to the top of the table following a 3-2 win over EDIS thanks to Mike Blackney and Peter Barlow (2). Paul Mail and Ryan

Longhurst replied for the visitors

Two apiece for Josh Pearce and Ben Guy helped AV Chivas to a 5-2 win against AFC Marchwood. Ben Davies netted the other with Mitchell Young claiming a consolation brace.

Craig Proudly scored for Boyatt Wood Wanderers in a 1-1 draw against Southampton Athletic, Dan White replying.

Goals were in full supply in Junior Division 5 as Ross Hickman's incredible start to the season continued in Obelisk's 17-1 win against J.S.C.

Hickman – who hit four

on the opening day – blasted a double hat-trick in the rout over winless J.S.C.

Anthony Rouse grabbed five goals and Mitch Turley netted a hat-trick after an opening day brace of his own.

Sam Wyeth, Matt Cullum and Joe Wilson also got on the scoresheet as Obelisk struck 12 times in the second half. Gavin Norris replied.

Another hat-trick, this time for Chartwell Green's Richard Mannion helped them trounce Ampfield 7-1.

Bradley Copperthwaite, Jason Collier, Kane Ellis and Richard Martin rounded off the scoring, with

Mark Henty replying.

Itchen Saints beat Cherbourg Reserves 3-2 with the help of Wes Gray's double and a Colin Harbut strike.

Bradley Taylor's goal in the first ten seconds had given Cherbourg the perfect start. Mike Knott also replied.

Banister Park drew 2-2 with BurrIDGE AFC, with Phill Gerrard and a Paul Lacey own goal on target for them. Richard Beechley and Will Toogood replied for BurrIDGE.

A Jordan Sherlock strike was the difference as Bridge AFC Reserves beat AFC Bishopstoke.

Central start like title favourites...

A HAT-TRICK from Lee Wort helped City Central fire an early title warning as they claimed an impressive 4-0 win at KRL in the second round of matches in the City of Southampton Sunday League Premier Division.

Sanchez McLean grabbed the other goal, *writes* **STUART COURT.**

Reigning Premier Division champions Knighton Arms continued their defence of their title with a 2-1 win over Totton Cosmos.

Simon Quirk and a late Matthew Burt strike gave them their second straight win, Mark Cumber replying.

Chamberlayne Athletic bounced back from losing their first game as they won 7-4 against Westwood Old Boys.

Goals from Tom Hawkins (2), Louis Le Messieur (2), Scott Brown, Andrew Powell and Craig Dowling gave them victory. Jamie Roberts (2), Breon Graham and Sam White replied.

Embryonic leaders Sholing Athletic claimed their second straight win with a 7-0 victory against Old House at Home.

Leon Elliot led the spree with a hat-trick with further goals coming from Craif Lyons (2), Sam Davis and Dan Chappell.

Winston Hotel got off the mark



ON TARGET: Lee Wort hit a hat-trick for City Central in their 4-0 win over KRL.

with a 9-0 win against Bedes Lea 97 thanks to goals from Ross Jones (2), Daniel Silence (2), Peter Slack (2), Aiden Johnsen and Matthew Headington.

Lyndhurst romped to a 10-2 suc-

cess at Eastbrook Harriers with three hat-trick heroes – Ashley Baddams (4), Wade Wilson (3) and James Davis (3).

Sam Crawford and Jamie Curtis replied. FC Railway found their

scoring touch against the Echo in Junior Division 1, racing to a 12-2 win. Daniel Hancock bagged five goals with Adam George (3), Ben McHale (2), Matthew Taylor and Mitchell Todd also netting. Steve Robinson and Kevin Jarvis replied.

Woodmill won 4-3 at Chartwell Green with Tommy Stringer, Jody Hoare, Phil Spacagna and Richard Adams on target. Gary Klepp (2) and Luke Bowyer replied.

Athletic HC won 5-0 against Newton Atheltic with Andy Longman (2), Jack Vaas, Ryan Dickson and David King scoring for the hosts.

AFC Southampton are setting the early pace in Junior Division thanks to a 5-2 win v AFC Bursledon

Two goals each from Lewis Hunt and Lee Ryves eased them to victory.

Lewis Crook and Ricky Wilkinson replied.

Luke Potheary netted twice as Hedge End won 7-4 at Bishops Blaize. Jake Biffin, Daniel Meader, Lee Devaney, Jon Burwell and Matt Prout also scored.

Spoils were shared after a 10-goal cracker between Sheffield English and Cricketers Oak (Fair Arms) ended in a 5-5 draw.

Ash Shergold (2), Toby Rodgers (2) and Luke Shergold netted for Sheffield English with Mark Best, John Cole (2), Tm Bendall and Santine Mucci replying.

SEE MONDAY'S ECHO FOR ALL THIS WEEKEND'S RESULTS

Local Football

Super sub Ward hits a treble for Railway

FORESTERS Arms were twice on terms through Alex Davis but a hat-trick from second half substitute Martin Warren eventually gave HAYWARD SUNDAY PREMIER LEAGUE high flyers Branksome Railway the upper hand 4-2.

Andy Masson had given Railway a first half lead and Warren restored their lead ten minutes into the second half before adding two more in the last ten minutes of the game.

Mike Johnston netted for Queens Park but a lively Queens Park Rovers side emerged 4-1 winners thanks to Jake Ormond's hat-trick and a goal from Mike Jones.

Conceding late goals proved to be the undoing of Priory Quays once again when they went down 2-1 to East Christchurch SSC. Quays were leading with a goal from Ryan O'Reilly until East Christchurch struck twice in the last five minutes through Lee Clark and James Wright to take all three points.

Aaron Corby (2) and Jay Birch gave Harry's Bar a 3-0 success against Shoulder of Mutton while Christchurch Royals were 3-1 winners against West Moors SSC thanks to Dave Wood, Sam Nash, and Rob Hepple.

Paul Blenman scored all five goals to give Lovett a 5-3 lead against Verwood SSC but the visitors became the only DIVISION ONE side with a perfect record when they came back to win 6-5 thanks to Shaun Daniels, Nick Scott, and Shaun Steer's four goal blast.

Nick Mitchell rattled in four when Kavell gave Lotus Press a 9-4 thumping with the other goals coming from Alex Robinson (2), Alex La Frenais, and Jimmy Thorner.

Creekmoor Lions were twice in front through Paul Harding and



ON THE BALL: Manor's Luke Scriven runs at the Sway defence.

Saturday reports on page 26

Nathan Creech but Bournemouth Athletic eventually shaded it 3-2 thanks to Shaun Brazier (2) and Kenny Wilson.

Despite Stu Marshall's hat-trick and a goal from Dan Jeffries Vienna Windows went down by the odd goal of nine to Parley Sports who netted through Dan Haynes, Matt Newbery, and a Toby Holmes hat-trick.

Redhill lead DIVISION TWO on goal difference after Dave Wrixton settled the issue 1-0 against Tiegla Tiles and Queens Park Rovers Reserves also have maximum points after Robbie Harber (2) and Adam Cutler clinched a 3-1 victory over Fernside Sports.

KC Transport were 6-3 winners against Specialist Lettings thanks to Gary Williams (2), Sean Heron (2), Dave Linton, and Matt Wells while Tom Linbourne struck twice in Barton Wanderers' 4-1 victory over

Magdon Scaffolding with the other goals coming from Joe Turner and Jason Hillyar.

Kane Darbinson's hat-trick proved decisive when DIVISION THREE pacesetters Victoria Cross got the better of AFC Stourvale 7-5 with the other goals coming from Andy Willis, Sam Thompson, Dan Cobb, and Toby Williams.

Hollies also maintained their perfect start when Tom Pepper and Ryan Ashford gave them a 2-1 majority over Oakdale Con.

Paul Conroy led the way with a hat-trick when Kings Arms Wallisdown swept Strouden Sports aside 6-3 in DIVISION FOUR with Mark Carrigan (2) and Darryl Baker also on target while Townsend Spartans hammered Talbot Pub 8-0 thanks to Parris Simpkins' hat-trick and further goals from Nick Greenfield, Lewis Brown, Simon Walsh, Brian Thomson, and Luke

Brown.

Danny Taylor and Martin De-St-Aubin both bagged hat-tricks in Tuakana's 10-5 triumph over AFC Ferndown in DIVISION FIVE with the other goals coming from Jon Spooner (2), Lewis Bratcher, and Lee Taylor.

Jordan Busing notched another hat-trick for Ensbury Park Rangers when they gave Vienna Windows Reserves a 7-2 larruping in DIVISION SIX with Scott Parker and Lewis Waters adding two each.

Bournemouth Borough were 5-2 winners against New Milton Borough thanks to Daniel Bailey (2), Carl House, Ross Ayley, and Peter Mitchell while George Moraitis, Richard Baldry, Carl Smalley, and Johnny Austin gave White Heather Hornets a 4-2 success against Pilot.

Adam Brookbanks and Tom Milne bagged four apiece when Scott V blitzed West Mullen 10-2 to lead DIVISION SEVEN on goal difference with Jim Miles and Khalid El-Qasabagli adding one each.

Shane Barney hit ECP for six when DIVISION EIGHT leaders A & T Athletic Reserves got the better of a 9-7 thriller. Dan Clements, Aaron Stacey, and Liam Holland were the other A & T marksmen while ECP replied through Matt Ireland, Dan Weeks, Sandy Wells, and a four goal burst from Frankie Gamble.

Kurt Harrison and Matt Cole both claimed hat-tricks in Alderholt's 7-1 triumph over West Howe while ARC Cleaning gave Rushmere the treatment 7-0 thanks to Dan Shelley's hat-trick, an own goal, and further goals from Joe Drake, Alex Davies, and Tom Jennings.

Michael Fleetham slotted home a hat-trick in West Mullen Reserves' 6-0 tonking of AFC Burton Reserves in DIVISION NINE with Aaron Steel, Robbie Smith, and an own goal completing their tally.

SOUTHAMPTON SUNDAY LEAGUE

Allbrook win thriller

AFC Allbrook came out on top in a 13-goal thriller against Coopervision in Division 1.

A brace from Dave Reading helped them to a 9-4 win with Liam Godfrey, Matt Hancock, Dean Higgins, Ash Nicholson, Darren Otley and Dan Stobbs also on target.

A Gareth Biggs hat-trick spurred on Hamble Club FC to a 6-0 win over Otter FC. Elliot Basset, Lewis Morse and Tim Rodham also netted.

The other game in the top flight saw Roll Call beat Forresters AFC 4-1 at home.

Matt Camfield scored twice, with Dan Longman also on target. Alex Veck replied.

Fair Oak Albion won 4-0 at home in Division 2 against Sholing United.

Craig Holloway, Greg Snellgrove, Matt Watson and Martin Wolf were on target.

Lapstone won 5-2 against Hedge End Social Club thanks to Mike Andrews, Jack Davis, Nyall O'Connor and a Liam Rynne own-goal. Andy Gregory (2) replied.

AFC West End's two-goal Craig Harding gave his side a 4-2 win over Holbury United. Connor Dodswell and Gareth Snelling also netted, with Damien Cravern and Michael Switzer replying.

Mark Phillips' brace was the difference for King George as they overcame AFC Anchor 3-2. Neil Abraham scored the other with John Richardson and Dan Rielly replying.

Division One	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AFC Allbrook	2	2	0	0	14	5	6
Hamble Club	2	1	1	0	8	4	4
Roll Call	2	1	1	0	8	5	4
C & G FC	1	1	0	0	5	1	3
Forresters AFC	2	1	0	1	4	6	3
Trants	1	0	0	1	1	5	0
Coopervision	2	0	0	2	6	12	0
Otter	2	0	0	2	3	12	0

Division Two	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lapstone	2	2	0	0	13	5	6
Fair Oak Albion	2	2	0	0	8	1	6
King George	2	2	0	0	9	5	6
Platinum South	2	1	1	0	5	2	4
AFC West End	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
Roll Call Reserves	0	1	0	2	2	2	1
Coopervision Res1	0	0	1	0	3	0	0
AFC Anchor	2	0	0	2	3	7	0
Sholing United	1	0	0	1	0	4	0
Holbury United	2	0	0	2	5	12	0
Hedge End Club	2	0	0	2	4	11	0

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GROUND BREAKING: The sides line up for the first game of the newly formed Southampton Girls League. Whiteley Wanderers (in pink) v Romsey Town Youth Under 11s at Stoneham Lane.

Daily Echo pics by Paul Collins. Order no: 15089149

Girls league off to a flying start

WHITELEY under-11s and Romsey Town served up a goal-fest in the inaugural game of the Southampton and District Girls League, with Whiteley eventually running out 6-3 winners.

Visiting Whiteley took an early lead but Romsey fought back, with Daisy Nelson hitting the post before firing Romsey level.

The hosts had the bit between their teeth and went ahead when Nelson was on hand to turn in Zara Vincent's cross.

Romsey then went 3-1 up after Jessica Sedman-Lamb made a tackle in her own half and passed to Nelson, who sent a great though ball for Vincent to run on to and score.

Whiteley pulled a goal back just

before the break, but in the early stages of the second half it still looked like Romsey would take the three points as Daisy Pimblett went close with a good chance.

But with no substitutes on a hot day, Romsey began to run out of steam and Whiteley scored two quick goals to go into a 4-3 lead.

Romsey battled gamely to the end, but two goals in the last three minutes wrapped up the win for the visitors.

● Romsey girls need players. If you want to play come along to training on Thursdays, 6pm, at Mountbatten School (school years 5 and 6) or Wednesdays, 3.30pm, at Cupernham Junior School (all ages). Call Clare Crossland on 07864 877274 for more information.



ACTION: Whiteley Wanderers (in pink) take on Romsey Town.

Order no: 15089165

SEND YOUR FOOTBALL NEWS TO: echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

Youth Football



MINI-LEAGUE: Baddesley Park under-10s. Order no: 15088999



MINI-LEAGUE: Colden Common under-10s. Order no: 15089011



DAILY ECHO PHOTOGRAPHER PAUL COLLINS WAS ON HAND TO CAPTURE THE BEST OF LAST WEEKEND'S ACTION FROM THE EASTLEIGH & DISTRICT MINI LEAGUE...

GET IN: Baddesley Park under-10s open the scoring in their clash with Colden Common. Order no: 15089028



MATCH ACTION: Left and right, Baddesley Park under-10s and Colden Common do battle in the Eastleigh and District Mini League .

Order nos: 15089020 (right), 15089024 (left), 15089014 (far left).



**ST FRANCIS ROV (U12) 3
ROMSEY TOWN
PANTHERS (U12) 5**

PANTHERS' got off to a flying start in their first match of the season, winning 5-3 at highly-rated St Francis.

A good save by new keeper Aneesh Bannerjee kept Romsey in the game early on, but Bradley Stone's cross was tapped in at the near post by Tim Crossland to give them the lead.

Rovers then took control and went into the break 3-1 up.

Two penalties for Crossland completed a well deserved hat-trick and captain Joe Vaughan scored from six yards to give Romsey the lead again.

Right winger Jojo Jenner netted a well placed header to make the game safe.

**WIDBROOK UTD (U12) 2
M&T (U12) 9**

M&T negotiated the first round of the Hampshire Cup with an emphatic win over Havant's Widbrook United.

Lucas Brown and George Smith helped themselves to hat-tricks and other goals came from Ben Fisher, Sam Van De Smee and the ever reliable Tyler Jerram.

When called upon, Thomas Bailey was exceptional in goal for M&T.

**WELLOW (U15) 1
SALISBURY CITY (U15) 2**

WELLOW could have snatched a draw with a late rally in a close encounter with Salisbury.

Salisbury led after 20 minutes with a powerful header past Ed Barnes.

Wellow came back strongly, and Mike Olaore, on as sub, equalised with a calm finish.

Olaore almost scored again when he challenged the keeper for a Ben Caffyn cross, but the keeper was badly hurt on landing and the match delayed while he was taken to hospital.

The second half saw Salisbury take control and they bagged the winner late on with a fine headed goal from a corner.

**SHOLING YOUTH WHITE (U9) 6
WELLOW YOUTH (U9) 1**

THE opening match of the season proved difficult for Wellow Youth.

Defenders William Gale and Matthew Webb were under pressure from the kick-off and Sholing soon scored.

Despite a valiant effort in goal from Otis Rees-Long, Wellow trailed by a further two goals by half time.

The second half began with a Wellow rally led by Billy Galton and Danny Brock in midfield and George Ludlam pulled a goal back.

Despite bringing on fresh talent in midfielders Cai Mundy and Adam Kelly, Wellow conceded three more goals.

And there was to be no joy for Wellow in their second game of the weekend as they went down 4-1 to Testwood United.

Wellow were already 2-0 down before Matthew Shobbrock's long pass allowed Matthew Webb to slip behind the Testwood defence for a debut goal.

However, it was to be just a consolation as Testwood came back and netted two more goals.

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight



SOLID: Michael Carberry got Hampshire off to a solid start at Lord's.



ON THE CHARGE: Sean Ervine hits a six on his way to a useful 57 for Hampshire.

HANTS HOLD TO WIN IT AT

Simon Walter

simon.walter@dailyecho.co.uk

CRICKET REPORTER

HAMPSHIRE were crowned the kings of limited-overs cricket after a dramatic last-ball victory over Warwickshire in the Clydesdale Bank 40 final sealed a trophy double for the Royals.

The Friends Life t20 champions laid the foundations for their Lord's triumph by posting 244 for five, the highest total in three years of CB40 finals.

Warwickshire's chase was inspired by a magnificent 81 from Ian Bell and a four from the penultimate ball of the match from Neil Carter drew the scores level.

But Carter, in his last match for the Bears, failed to get a bat onto Kabir Ali's final delivery to leave Warwickshire on 244 for seven.

The scores were tied but Hampshire claimed the trophy by virtue of losing fewer wickets.

With the last four Lord's finals having been won by the chasing side, Warwickshire captain Jim Troughton invited Hampshire to bat first and they responded to the challenge.

Michael Carberry scored a quick-fire 35 at the top of the innings, laying a solid foundation in an opening stand of 41 with James Vince.

Carberry launched Chris Woakes and Ian Blackwell for sixes before he was caught by at point by Jeetan Patel, who snared an excellent low catch just above the grass.

Jimmy Adams flicked a glorious six over mid-wicket as he and Neil McKenzie took Hampshire past the 100 mark with a 57-run partnership.

If Warwickshire thought they had checked Hampshire's growing momentum with the removal of McKenzie for 19, bowled by Blackwell, they were wrong.

Adams brought up his half-century from 51 deliveries before he eventually flashed at a wide delivery from Woakes and played on, falling for 66.

Sean Ervine and Simon Katich took up the baton in a sprint finish for Hampshire, racing to a 50-run partnership from just 33 deliveries.

Ervine laid waste to the Warwickshire attack in a blistering innings, hitting a six and six fours before being caught behind for 57 by Tim Ambrose off Darren Maddy.

Katich, the former Australia



IT'S PARTY TIME: Hampshire skipper Jimmy Adams gets his side's

international, struck five boundaries in his unbeaten 35 as Hampshire threw down the gauntlet to Warwickshire.

The Bears are confident chasers.

Five of their eight group wins were secured when batting second while Hampshire were short of two bowlers, with Danny Briggs on England Twenty20 duty and Dimitri Mascarenhas sidelined through injury.

Openers Maddy and Varun Chopra took a different approach to Hampshire, putting on 53 for the first wicket at a measured pace.

But the inability of Warwickshire's batsmen, with the exception of Bell, to build on strong starts to their innings proved to be the Bears' undoing.

Chopra was caught by Adams off a Chris Wood slower ball for 26 and Maddy then went for 35 after chipping Liam Dawson to mid-wicket

as Warwickshire slipped to 89 for two.

Ambrose smashed Katich for two fours as he and Bell guided Warwickshire past the 100 mark before the wicketkeeper was caught behind off Wood for 26.

When Troughton followed soon after for five, the responsibility for Warwickshire's double bid had fallen squarely on Bell's shoulders.

The England batsman enjoyed taking on the Hampshire bowling, scoring nine fours and a six as he guided Warwickshire to the brink of victory.

With 10 overs remaining, Warwickshire were on 191 for four, exactly where Hampshire had been at the same point in their innings.

Wood bowled Rikki Clarke for 24 but Bell still led the chase, launching 13 from one Kabir over before

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

THEIR NERVE THE DEATH...



celebrations started after their last-ball CB40 Final triumph today.

finally succumbing, caught in the deep by Carberry off Woakes.

Warwickshire still required 27 from the final three overs and Woakes did his best with an unbeaten 24, including successive boundaries off Wood to leave the Bears requiring seven from the last six balls.

When Kabir bowled Blackwell, that equation changed to five from three before Carter's sublime cover drive brought the scores level.

But amid unbearable tension, with many on the Warwickshire balcony unable to watch, Carter could not get a bat on the final delivery of the match.

Wicketkeeper Michael Bates did brilliantly to gather Kabir's full delivery and preserve the dot ball, undoubtedly the most celebrated dot ball of Hampshire's triumphant season.

SCOREBOARD

CB40 FINAL

LORD'S

HAMPSHIRE V WARWICKSHIRE

Hampshire Innings
M A Carberry c Patel b Wright 35
J M Vince c Patel b Carter 18
J H K Adams b Woakes 66
N D McKenzie b Blackwell 19
S M Ervine c Ambrose b Maddy 57
S M Katich not out 35
L A Dawson not out 2
Extras (b1 lb2 w7 nb2 pens 0) 12
Total 5 wks Innings Complete (40 overs) 244
Fall: 1-48, 2-70, 3-127, 4-171, 5-240.
Did Not Bat: M D Bates, C P Wood, Kabir Ali, D A Griffiths.
Bowling: Carter 8-0-63-1, Woakes 8-0-59-1, Blackwell 8-0-42-1, Wright 3-0-14-1, Patel 8-0-32-0, Maddy 5-0-31-1.

Warwickshire Innings
D L Maddy c Wood b Dawson 35
V Chopra c Adams b Wood 26
I R Bell c Carberry b Griffiths 81
T R Ambrose c Bates b Wood 26
J O Troughton c Adams b Ervine 5
R Clarke b Wood 24
C R Woakes not out 24
I D Blackwell b Kabir Ali 2
N M Carter not out 4
Extras (b1 lb6 w7 nb3) 17
Total 7 wks Innings Complete (40 overs) 244
Fall: 1-53, 2-89, 3-137, 4-144, 5-193, 6-218, 7-240.
Did Not Bat: J S Patel, C J C Wright.
Bowling: Dawson 8-2-39-1, Kabir Ali 8-0-50-1, Wood 8-0-39-3, Ervine 6-0-46-1, Griffiths 8-0-43-1, Katich 2-0-20-0.

Hampshire tied with Warwickshire and won by losing fewer wickets

**SEE MONDAY'S
ECHO FOR MORE
PICTURES AND
REACTION FROM
HAMPSHIRE'S
THRILLING WIN**

Jimmy: Bowlers won it

HAMPSHIRE captain Jimmy Adams paid tribute to his bowlers after their dramatic Clydesdale Bank 40 final victory over Warwickshire at Lord's.

Neil Carter failed to score off the last ball of the game, bowled by Kabir Ali, meaning Hampshire won by virtue of losing fewer wickets after both sides finished on 244.

"It hasn't sunk in. Kabir did a great job and the seamers held their nerve and we just snuck over," said the skipper, who was named man of the match after his 66.

"I have been a bit short of runs, the last few games I have come good. I'm just very happy to contribute today."

With regulars Dimitri Mascarenhas and Danny Briggs missing from the side, there was pressure on fringe

players such as Kabir to step up. They did and Adams was keen to pay tribute to their performance. "They have been brilliant today," he added.

"We are missing a few guys but the others came in and made it count. It has been a great day's cricket and we are fortunate to come out on the right side of it."

The win adds to their trophy haul for the campaign after their Twenty20 triumph earlier in the season and Kabir spoke of his nerves as he ran up to bowl the final delivery.

"Jimmy (Adams) told me to try and get the dot ball," he said. "I had been working on them for a while. My heart was pumping quite fast but I managed to control it."



APPLAUSE: Hampshire's players on the balcony at Lord's show their appreciation at a Carberry maximum and, below, so do Hampshire's army of travelling fans.



GET IN: Hampshire's Liam Dawson celebrates the wicket of Darren Maddy.

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Tuesday (from 18.09.12) 4.00 - 4.45pm U12's Beginners Ballroom/Latin **£3** • 5.00 - 6.00pm Teen Beginners Ballroom/Latin **£4**

Saturday (from 15.09.12) 9.30 - 10.00am U7's Beginners Ballroom/Latin **£2.50**

10.00 - 10.45am U12's Beginners Ballroom/Latin **£3** • 11.00 - 12.00 noon Teen Beginners Ballroom/Latin **£4**

Adult Classes Timetable (starts from Monday 10th September)

Monday: 7.30 - 8.30pm Absolute Beginners Ballroom/Latin **£5** • 8.30 - 9.30pm Beginners Plus Ballroom/Latin **£5**

Tuesday: 8.30pm - 9.30pm Social Dance with tuition **£5** **Wednesday:** 6pm - 7pm Yoga with Stacey-Tel: **07866016529**

7.30 - 9pm Ballroom/Latin technique class **£6** **Thursday:** 9.30 - 10.30am Tai Chi with Glenda-Tel: **02380651223**

11.00 - 12.30pm Flamenco with Vivien Tel: **07870549719** 1.30 - 3.00pm Afternoon Tea Dance **£3** • 8.30 - 9.30pm Advanced Ballroom/Latin **£5**

Friday: 8 - 10pm Friday Night Social Practice **£5**



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Local Cricket Spotlight



Tom fires Brock to final win

TOTTEN & Eling teenager Tom Arnold hit a powerful 114 as the Brockenhurst College Cricket Academy swept to an 81-run win over Farnborough in the Hampshire Sixth Form Colleges Altham Trophy final at Bashley.

Arnold and Nick Elliott (39) scored the lion's share of Brock's 206 before three wickets each by Hameed Khoiyani (3-16) and James Rapson (3-20) helped dismiss Farnborough for 125 (Franklin 48).

It was the first time Brockenhurst had lifted the trophy in only the second year the fledgling academy has been running. Any students



CHAMPS: Brockenhurst College's cricket side won the Hampshire Sixth Form Altham Trophy with a victory over Farnborough.

wishing to apply for the Brockenhurst College Cricket Academy for September 2013 should contact Director of Cricket: Paul Andrews (pan-drews@brock.ac.uk).

Romsey gamble pays off

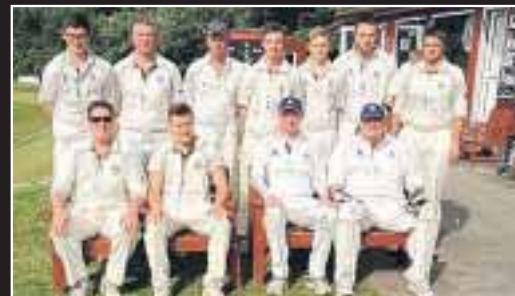
OLD Tauntonian's & Romsey's decision to inject younger players into their ranks paid dividends with the second team winning the County Division 3 championship.

They finished five points ahead of runners-up Liphook & Ripsley, one of only two sides to beat them.

Ironically, OTs got off on the wrong foot with an early defeat at Steep, but a string of victories soon had them setting the pace at the top.

Leading run scorer Steve Smith (393) and teenager George Eldridge (315) hit centuries against Paultons II and Highfield, respectively, while Ieuan Wathen's handy 313-run tally was complemented by four stumpings and 12 catches.

Former BAT Sports all-rounder Pete Biddlecombe made 287 runs and Steve



OLD TAUNTONIANS & ROMSEY III, COUNTY DIVISION 3 CHAMPIONS: Back (left-right): Joe Welch, Pete Biddlecombe, Nick Wood, George Eldridge, Ollie Jordan, Stuart Wood, Steve Smith. Front: Steve Caldicott, Mark Whitehead, Phil Wyatt, Ieuan Watham.

Booth 203, while experienced spin duo Phil Wyatt (22) and Nic Wood (19) enjoyed a lion's share of the wickets.

Steve Smith completed a fine all-round summer with 19 wickets to help OTs back into the County

Division 2 fold.

OTs' third and fourth teams also celebrated Hampshire League promotions.

However, the 1st XI were relegated from Southern Electric Premier League, Division 2.

Hawkins to return to South Wilts

HARRY Hawkins plans to return to the South Wilts fold next summer after two seasons with Westbury & District, who have just been relegated from the West of England Premier League, Division 2.

The teenage batsman/wicketkeeper, pictured, will have an impressive entry on his CV when he makes his Bemerton return – as he was named Man of the Match in this week's Schools Sport Magazine National Schools' Under-17 Cup final.

Hawkins hit 87 as his Gillingham School continued a series of competition shocks by beating mighty



Shrewsbury in the final at Cunnor, where the powerful Shropshire school finished 23 runs adrift in their bid to chase down 221-9.

Helping the Gillingham cause was South Wilts all-rounder Tom Cowley, who hit an important 33 midway through the Gillingham innings and then took 2-16 in a tidy bowling spell.

Previously unfancied Gillingham knocked out 2011 winners Filton College (Bristol), Truro and Dulwich College before beating Shrewsbury in the final.



Wickham on the up again...

WICKHAM, REGIONAL SOUTH ONE CHAMPIONS: Standing (left-right): Malc Burt (Umpire), John Gwynn, Andy Gwynn, Mark Raven, Martin Reed, Nick Stothert, Dave Gwynn. Front: Steve Judge, Peter Gwynn, Bob Hayward, Lesley Wilde (Secretary), David Chetri, John Phillips, Martin Rowe.

WICKHAM are celebrating a second consecutive Hampshire League championship – despite playing only half their scheduled 17 South Regional One matches.

They took the field just nine times in the wettest summer in the HL's story, but seven wins and a tie

enabled them to finish comfortably above second-placed Ellingham II and add the South One title to the South East Regional 2 pot they won in 2010.

Wickham have seldom been out of the top three in any of the regional divisions they've played in during recent seasons and, once they got going after their first three games

were rained off, the runs started to flow.

They racked up 200-plus scores against Burley, Langley Manor II and Hythe & Dibden, with Chris Martin scoring 124 at Knellers Lane and the consistent Nick Stoddart making 99 against the Watersiders.

Wickham won their first five

matches and were halfway to repeating their feat of winning SE2 with a 100 per cent record when Bishop's Waltham II held them to a 170-run each tie.

Their solitary defeat – by eight wickets to Bashley (Rydal) III – was sandwiched in between victories over West Moors and CBBEA, which clinched the title.

THE PINK: BEST FOR CRICKET NEWS ALL YEAR ROUND

t20 World Cup preview ... t20 World Cup preview

DANNY'S MOMENT

IT will be notable for the absence of Kevin Pietersen, but could be the tournament that sees Danny Briggs become an England star.

The World Twenty20 begins on Tuesday with Briggs included in a 15-man England squad attempting to defend the title won in 2010, largely due to Pietersen's brilliance, *writes SIMON WALTER.*

Whatever you make of Pietersen's absence this time, there is little doubt that England are a poorer side without him.

He was named player of the tournament when England won in Barbados two years ago, but will be in the commentary box this time.

England's series-levelling performance against South Africa gives plenty of reason for optimism.

And there is a good chance that Briggs could play more than just a bit part after impressing on his Twenty20 international debut against South Africa on Wednesday night.

Picked ahead of Samit Patel, Briggs took the new ball when the Proteas replied to England's 118-5.

His 2-16 in the 11-over slog will have done him no harm.

Briggs' dismissal of Faf du Plessis - caught at cover by Eoin Morgan via a leading edge - with the last of his 12 deliveries is a great memory for him to take to the sub continent.

Clearly, conditions in Sri Lanka will suit him.

It is why he has been picked as one of three spinners, alongside Graeme Swann and Patel.

There is little doubt that Swann and Patel will play the first game, against the might of Afghanistan in Colombo on Friday.

Both offer more with the bat than Briggs, but do not rule out England going with three spinners.

Briggs' star has risen inexorably since making his Hampshire debut just three years ago.

The following summer he helped Hampshire win the 2010 Friends Life t20 and he was also a key performer as the Royals reached the 2011 semi-finals before starring in last month's final at the Swalec.

While he is the youngest English spinner to take 100 first-class wickets since Derek Underwood, it is as a limited-overs bowler that he has really made his mark.

His skills with the white ball are far from limited, as he showed when he took 2-39 on his one-day international debut against Pakistan in February.

While he does not spin the ball as much as some, his strength is his control of flight and pace, the subtle nuances that have already brought him 119 limited-overs wickets for Hampshire - and he is still only 21.

Briggs' maturity is a great strength of his.

As Dimi Mascarenhas pointed out after the t20 final, he bowls like a spinner twice his age.

He is also mature off the pitch.

His wedding to childhood sweetheart Linsey will either be rescheduled for a second time (his England commitments clashed with the original date) or limit his Champions League availability next month.

But Hampshire's management must be happy that he is so keen to settle down.

He is certainly not the type to let success go to his head.

Briggs was first called up to England's Twenty20 squad for two matches against the West Indies at the end of last season, when Durham leg-spinner Scott Borthwick was preferred.

A year on, he is suddenly in real contention, especially as Swann's elbow trouble is a continual source of concern.

It was a disgrace that he was not allowed to play in the Clydesdale Bank 40 final, the England and Wales Cricket Board dictating that he should fly out to Sri Lanka with the rest of the squad this week.



IMPRESSIVE DEBUT: Danny Briggs celebrates taking a wicket on his England t20 debut this week.

Australia look good

AUSTRALIA may be ranked ninth in the world at Twenty20 cricket, but Test captain Michael Clarke is confident they can upset the formbook at the forthcoming World Cup.

The ex-Hampshire man will be a mere observer when the tournament kicks off later this month, having retired from the shortest form of the game in January.

George Bailey will captain the side as a result, and has yet to achieve the sort of success demanded of a Baggy Green captain.

But Clarke has the belief that Bailey and the rest of the side can prove their doubters wrong in Sri Lanka.

"We can win the Twenty20 World Cup for sure," he said.

"We've got the talent and I think we showed that in our last game against Pakistan in the UAE.

"We've showed it in patches over the last couple of years and we made the final the last time around, and I hope we can go one better."

In the absence of the likes of Clarke and Ricky Ponting - seasoned heads intrinsically linked with modern-day Australian cricket - the likes of Bailey, Hampshire all-rounder Glenn Maxwell and Matthew Wade have been given their chance.

The side looks dramatically different as a result, and Clarke added: "This is a different Australian team and we need to turn things around.

"What better time to do it than at the World Cup."

England out at 8/1

ENGLAND are a top-priced 8/1 with Blue Square to retain the World Twenty20 title in Sri Lanka, with book-makers happy to oppose a Three Lions outfit missing 2010 player of the tournament Kevin Pietersen, below.

India go into the competition as 9/2 favourites to repeat their 2007 triumph, with the host nation and South Africa available at 11/2.

Australia, West Indies and 2009 champions Pakistan can all be backed at 13/2 to lift the trophy.

BetVictor are so sure England will falter that they will refund all losing bets of up to £50 on the outright winner market if Stuart Broad's side do manage to recapture the sparkle shown in the Caribbean last time.

Sri Lanka have provided the top batsman for the last two renewals, with Mahela Jayawardene 18/1 to head the runs chart again and Tillakaratne Dilshan 20/1 to match his 2009 heroics on home turf.

Favourite for this market is West Indies kingpin Chris Gayle at 8/1 with Coral.

Veteran Sri Lanka bowler Lasith Malinga is 10/1 to take most wickets, with Pakistan's Umar Gul 25/1 to secure this title for the third time in four attempts and England's Graeme Swann available at the same price.

Swann can also be backed at 7/2 with Ladbrokes to be the Three Lions' best bowler, with Steven Finn next in the betting at 15/4 with Sportingbet and Broad a 4/1 chance there.



PARALYMPICS QUOTES

"If you ever see me in a Lycra suit again, you have my permission to shoot me" - Britain's Anthony Peddle comes over all Steve Redgrave as he decides his seventh Games will be his last after finishing eighth in the men's under-48kg category of powerlifting.

"I fell out of the gate because the f***** gate didn't open. I've wasted four years of my life to ride in front of 6,000 people. Do you know what it's like to dedicate four years of your life... I can't even express it, there aren't the f***** words" - angry British rider Jody Cundy venting his frustration after race officials ruled he was not entitled to a restart in the C4/5 one-kilometre time-trial.

"I'm going to get two - that's really big-headed" - Hannah Cockcroft after winning gold in the T34 100 metres. She did - adding a second gold in the T34 200m.

"Today I came and saw and conquered. That's why I gave the two-gun salute at the end" - Richard Whitehead on his muscle-flexing celebration after winning gold in the men's T42 200 metres.



WE MEET AGAIN: David Cameron and Ellie Simmonds.

"I've met him at his house, in number 10. It's great to meet him in my place" - Ellie Simmonds, mindful of an earlier encounter with Prime Minister David Cameron at Downing Street, is glad to meet him again at her HQ, the Aquatics Centre on the Olympic Park.

"I was very, very angry. I didn't even know I could be that angry" - Ukraine's Maria Pomazan on the scoring blunder which saw her downgraded from gold to silver in F35/36 discus. She went on to win shot put gold and, eventually, handed back her discus gold to the IPC.

"It had to be done. I couldn't have my little brother beating me" - British athlete Libby Clegg, who took silver in the T12 100m moments after her brother James won a swimming bronze in the S12 100m butterfly.

"If they're going to up me a class I'll just race harder" - American Mallory Weggemann after winning 50m freestyle gold despite being reclassified from S7 to S8.

"The guy shoots like a machine. We had a meeting and we said we've just got to let him do what he does best and that's shoot, you don't get him doing anything else. You don't get a dog to act like a cat, do you? That's what he is, he's a dog. Let him play like a dog" - Jon Pollock on playing to the strengths of GB men's wheelchair basketball team-mate Terry Bywater.

-- PARALYMPIC GAMES 2012 -- PARALYMPIC

A magical moment...

MAGICAL, mind-blowing and marvellous are just some of the superlatives used to describe the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

The XIV Games were the best yet, exceeded the expectations of all and can mark a new beginning for Paralympic sport, writes **MATT MCGEEHAN**.

Those of us fortunate enough to have followed Paralympic sport knew of the potential.

The realisation of a vision brought knowing smiles, while everyone else to have embraced the Games were equally as delighted.

All of our minds have been expanded and astounded by the power of humanity as more than 4,200 athletes from 164 nations pushed themselves to the limits of their physical ability in search of one of 503 gold medals over 11 days of sporting competition.

One of the Games' aims were to change perceptions.

Now talk is of what is possible, rather than what is not.

Britain's Sarah Storey has won 11 Paralympic titles in a career which began as a 14-year-old swimmer in Barcelona in 1992 and saw her claim four gold medals as a cyclist in London. She has seen how perceptions have changed across six Games.

"People are now starting to look and say this is just elite sport," Storey said.

"When I first made the team I had older athletes within swimming saying 'whatever you do do not let them call you brave and courageous. This is

our fight. We must stop it'. 'People just saw disability as the thing that was in front of them and not sport.

"I've not seen any patronising comments during these Games and that was the one hope we had.

"I'm just so proud to have been a part of that journey and to see that change."

We all looked on in wonder at the sporting feats achieved.

From American archer

Matt Stutzman, who fires his bow using his jaw after being born without arms, to Chinese swimmer Xu Qing a double amputee who kicked like a motorboat and always finished first.

Xu won four titles in the pool as China finished top of the medal table with 95 gold medals, six more than they won in Beijing in their home Games, in a remarkable show of force.

Not a seat was to be found at the Aquatics

Centre, Olympic Stadium and other venues.

Crowds queued to get a glimpse of Paralympic-only sports like wheelchair rugby and goalball.

This was not just about curiosity.

It was about satisfying a thirst to witness sporting competition.

Yes, there were partisan crowds waving Union Flags and cheering the British competitors loudly, but they were also there to see the blind and

visually impaired long jump, to sample the tension of the boccia and to wince at the collisions in wheelchair basketball and murderball.

Oscar Pistorius remains a poster boy of the Paralympic movement, but there are now numerous others.

David Weir, winner of four titles from 800m to marathon in his home town; Alex Zanardi, the Formula One driver turned Paralympic cham-



MAGIC: Great Britain's flag bearers David Weir (centre left) and Sarah Storey (centre right) during the Paralympic Games closing ceremony and, main pic, Storey and her two-year-old nephew Gethin Crayford celebrate her medal win in the Women's Individual C 4-5 Road Race.

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GAMES 2012 -- PARALYMPIC GAMES 2012 --



The lasting legacy of the Games

PARALYMPIC organisers hailed the "seismic effect in shifting public attitudes" to disability sports claiming the Games have changed public perceptions forever.

London 2012 chairman Sebastian Coe praised the "extraordinary summer of sport", which has made household names of home-grown Paralympians such as swimmer Ellie Simmonds, wheelchair racer David Weir, pictured, and sprinter Jonnie Peacock.

And he said the Paralympics coverage had helped raise awareness of disability in sport, providing a lasting legacy.

Reflecting on the Games, Coe said: "We set a goal to create awareness, I really think we have done that in helping converting some of those extraordinary talents into household names."

"I really genuinely think we have had a seismic effect in shifting public attitudes. I don't think people will ever see sport the same way again. I don't think they will ever see disability in the same way again."

"One of the most powerful observations was made to me, by one of our volunteers, who talked about having lifted some of the clouds of limitation."

Coe's comments come as new research shows eight in 10 British adults say that Paralympics 2012 has had a positive impact on the way disabled people are viewed by the public. According to an Ipsos MORI poll, three in four Britons say the Paralympics have had a positive effect on the mood of the British public.

Coe said: "The real challenge is to maintain sustainable and meaningful change."

"I would like to think that by extending the excitement from the Olympic Games into the Paralympic Games that exhilaration has led to a greater education. I think people will leave understanding a great deal more about the world they are living in."

Sir Philip Craven, former wheelchair basketball athlete and president of the International Paralympic Committee, said he was "above the landscape, floating on cloud nine or sometimes 10 and 11" following the success of this year's Paralympics.

He said the Games would "live on", but said more work needed to be done in schools to ensure a fitting sporting legacy was left.

"Sport and physical education in schools for everyone should be a priority subject," he added.

"This is where you become fit, you interact with your friends, you learn about life."

"That isn't to get new gold medal winners, that will happen, it is for everyone to participate and taste the sport they want to play."

Coe said "political energy" was also needed to ensure momentum from the Paralympics continued without "four years of wilderness" until the next Games, in Rio.

He added: "There is not an easy 'five weeks to thin thighs' trip here. It is not the six easy steps to freedom. It is going to need political energy, there is no question about that."



pion hand-cyclist; multiple swimming champions Matthew Cowdrey of Australia and Daniel Dias of Brazil.

There are poster girls too.

Dutch ace Esther Vergeer, who has now won 470 successive wheelchair tennis singles matches; Australian swimmer Jacqueline Freney, who won eight titles; and South African Natalie du Toit, who bowed out of swimming

with three London golds and 13 across three Paralympics.

There were controversies too.

Jody Cundy's rage in the velodrome, Pistorius' comments on the length of a rival's prosthetic running blades and the classification furor which surrounded three American swimmers, particularly Victoria Arlen, who responded from the uncertainty to win one gold and three

silver medals.

The International Paralympic Committee recognise the flaws in the Games and the potential of the classification system - best compared to weight divisions in sports such as boxing - to cause confusion.

Classification is imperative to the sport and the IPC are working to ensure clarity in future.

Britain has embraced Paralympic sport as sporting spectacle.

PARALYMPICS QUOTES

"I've never seen a guy come back from eight metres (behind) on the 100m mark to overtake me on the finish line. The guys are just running ridiculous times and they're able to do so" - **Oscar Pistorius just minutes after relinquishing his T44 200m crown to Alan Fonteles Oliveira.**

"I would never want to detract from another athlete's moment of triumph and I want to apologise for the timing of my comments after yesterday's race" - **Pistorius releases a statement several hours later, having had a night's sleep to reflect on his post-race outburst.**

"I asked my dad at the funeral to help me on that 50 and at the start I was saying 'Come on, bloody help, spirit me off and carry me there'" - **Matt Walker, whose dad died in June, on how he called on his help to inspire him to a swimming bronze medal in the men's S7 50m freestyle.**

"I think the T43s and T44s need to split classes. It's not apples to apples, it's apples to pineapples right now. If you want to keep us together you need



JONNIE PEACOCK

to re-evaluate that formula to make sure it's a fair playing field for all the athletes, because single leg amputees, we don't really have too much manoeuvring when it comes to height" - **American sprinter Jerome Singleton gives his take on the great blade debate.**

"You can be humble when you win, it's easy. But to be gracious when you lose, that's not something I did and I'm very sorry for that" - **Pistorius, after winning gold with South Africa in the 4x100m relay, having had a few days to reflect on his comments.**

"To be beaten by an athlete like that makes me extremely happy" - **Pistorius, the following day, after losing to Jonnie Peacock in the 100m final.**

"Hopefully that's shown people what real athletes we are at the Paralympics" - **Sarah Storey after claiming her fourth gold of the Games.**

"Once I looked up at the board and it came in I was first, I thought, 'that was unexpected'. I turned round and saw world record again, I thought, 'this is just a surprising day'. I am quite shocked by this, I might need a bit of therapy" - **Josef Craig, 15, after breaking the S7 400 metres freestyle world record for the second time in a day to claim gold.**

"The crowd has made this London 2012 Games, it's made it come alive. It's electric when you go out there. Britain has got behind these Games and it's absolutely amazing to see" - **Peacock on home support at the London 2012 Games.**

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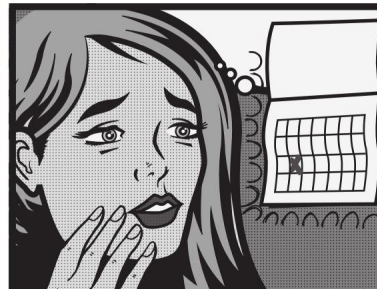
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BOOK of the WEEK

Jackers: A Life in Cricket
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Sir Ian Botham's first impression of Robin Jackman was not good.

As a member of a Surrey team considered "an arrogant bunch" according to Beefy, his theatrical appealing to umpires made him "particularly irritating."

Thankfully, Sir Ian's opinion has melted over the years, especially after the pair visited the West Indies (and Jackman was controversially deported from Guyana) as part of England's 1980/81 tour.

Today, Botham considers Jackman a close friend and reading this excellent biography, one suspects there have been a few glasses raised over the past 30 years which have cemented their friendship.

Robin Jackman initially dreamt of becoming an actor, like his well-known thespian uncle, Patrick Cargill, until the avuncular Cargill dissuaded him, whereupon young Jackman (he was 11 at the time) announced that he would instead play for Surrey and England.

And so it proved.

Jackman was a determined character who required only a modicum of fine-tuning to develop into an outstanding cricketer. He is, he says, "the product of three essential elements: what boarding school taught me, what my parents taught me and what cricket taught me."

His early career, which was to account for expulsion from Guyana, was spent in South Africa and his wonderful descriptions of cricket there are mixed with a steady supply of amusing, thoughtful and occasionally reflective anecdotes, so adding a steady pace to the narrative.

From cooking beef curry in the bath to using alternative words for Maltesers, which ensure you never date the girl again, this is a tale which never drags.

Jackman is, of course, better known here for his ultra-professional performances for Surrey and, rather belatedly, for England.

But this is no chronological re-write of matches played and wickets taken; the man appears to have genuinely enjoyed the game and everything associated with it.

As Botham points out, Robin Jackman had the misfortune to be around at a time when England had a supply of excellent bowlers.

Perhaps his South African links played a role in his absence from England squads, for when he was called up to tour the West Indies it was nearly cancelled.

We may be approaching the finale to the domestic cricket campaign, but *A Life in Cricket* is an ideal accompaniment for those who wish to extend the season a little longer.



LONDON OLYMPICS 2012



What now for 2012

AFTER the big build and the gold rush comes the transformation of the Olympic Park.

Transformation of the 560-acre site in Stratford, east London, into the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park is set to take 18 months from October.

The sweeping scale of the project, ever since July 2005 when London won the right to stage the 2012 Games, has seen the area turn from brown to green and gold.

The site, a pocket of largely industrial wasteland in a deprived stretch of London's East End, was the subject of the biggest and most complex compulsory purchase orders in British history.

Businesses including a fish smokery, residents, travellers, allotment holders and cyclists were among the 2,220 different land interests across the site that were found new homes, some amid protracted negotiations with planners.

Cutting-edge award-winning architecture such as the wave-like velodrome, nicknamed The Pringle, are now in place along with colourful wild flowers and beds which were expertly raised and planted to bloom in time for the Games.

After two years of research riverbank meadows of bee-friendly cornflowers, marigolds, Californian poppies and prairie flowers, especially designed to flower late by Sheffield University's international wildflower expert Professor Nigel Dunnett, were planted.

They bloomed gold just in time for the Olympic opening ceremony.

The last of more than ten football fields' worth of nectar-rich wildflower meadows were sown in May as gardens, lawns, woodlands and wetlands that provided not only the colourful setting for the Games but also, if the plans become a reality, a new park for people and wildlife for generations to come.

The bulk of the planting of the 4,000 trees, 300,000 wetland plants, 15,000 square metres of lawns and more than 150,000 perennial plants and bushes in the Olympic Park and Village was completed in the autumn by the Olympic Delivery Authority.

Now the site is ready for another transformation.

Construction workers will return once again to turn a complex of arenas, pools and buildings which have



become so familiar to so many television viewers across the globe into the newly-named Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

The new-look Park is set to reopen to the public in phases from July 27 next year – a year after the opening of the London 2012 Olympics.

In a nutshell, according to the plans, the new Park will include 257 acres of open space, 6.5 km of waterways, nine direct rail links, five world-class sports venues, 2,000 events hosted annually and five new neighbourhoods.

If all goes to plan, the target is for 9.3 million visitors to pass through it annually from 2016.

The plans involve the removal of temporary venues from the Olympic Park after the Paralympics, such as the Basketball Arena.

Balfour Beatty will also remove the temporary seating from the Aquatics Centre, leaving 2,500 seats for future use.

Major international competitions will be held at the Olympic Stadium, even though its new tenants have not yet been confirmed.

Four bids are in the running to make the showpiece venue their new home after the Games.

Bids from West Ham United, Leyton Orient, Intelligent Transport Services in association with Formula One, and UCB College of Football Business will be assessed to ensure they are compliant, before being evaluated ahead of negotiations, according to the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC).

It is set to become the new national home for athletics and to host the IAAF 2017 World Championships.

The five-storey press centre will provide around 317,000 sq ft of prime office space with the potential for retail use on the ground

Up to 20,000 journalists used the venue during the Games. Afterwards, the Broadcast Centre will offer 95,000 sq ft of office space over five floors and 575,000 sq ft of commercial space over two floors.

The five-storey press centre will provide around 317,000 sq ft of prime office space with the potential for retail use on the ground



LONDON OLYMPICS 2012



Olympic facilities?



floor.

The aim is for it to be a digital hub which could use local east London talent but also with a community focus after the Games.

A conference centre and a pedestrian square for broadcasting major sporting events, along with cafes, restaurants and bars, are among the plans.

The LLDC claims it has set "tough but achievable" requirements that must be met before any agreement for lease is formally signed.

Estimates suggest 800,000 visitors a year will use the Aquatics Centre when the

Park reopens.

The two temporary wings will be stripped away to cut the capacity to 2,500 after the Games. It will be possible to increase the venue capacity for major competitions, the LLDC said.

It had a 17,500-capacity for the Games, under a 160m x 80m wave-like roof which has a longer single span than Heathrow Terminal 5.

It features a 50m competition pool, a 25m competition diving pool, a 50m warm-up pool and a "dry" warm-up area for divers.

Users will range from community clubs to schools and

elite swimmers, and the venue's moveable booms and floors can be shifted to create different depths and pool sizes to fit swimmers of various abilities and experience.

A creche, changing facilities, a cafe and a new public plaza in front of the building are some of the features that will be installed.

Greenwich Leisure Limited has been named as the operator.

The Copper Box, where the handball and some modern pentathlon disciplines were held, is to become a multi-use sports centre for the

community, athlete training and events.

Greenwich Leisure Limited has again been named as operator.

Its flexible design and retractable seating mean it will be suitable for activities ranging from international competition to community sports.

Legacy chiefs hope indoor sports such as basketball, handball, badminton, boxing, martial arts, netball, table tennis, wheelchair rugby and volleyball could be played there.

A health and fitness club with changing facilities and

a cafe for use by the local community are also planned.

Temporary areas used for the media and technology equipment during the Games will be converted to provide extra spectator facilities. The athletes' changing rooms will be turned into changing areas.

The first homes on the Park are to be ready at the end of 2014.

The North Park, a nature-themed community sector and playground also including the 7,500 multi-use sport, entertainment and community arena, will be the first area to reopen in July next year.

The east London boroughs of Hackney, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest will all have entrances to the North Park and visitors could walk there through Eton Manor.

The rest of the North Park, including the Lee Valley VeloPark and more visitor access points, is set to open at the end of 2013.

The South Plaza, sitting between the Olympic Stadium, Aquatics Centre and the ArcelorMittal Orbit, is set to open at Easter 2014.

At this point visitors will have access to the whole of the Park.

A series of green spaces will mark out this area.

For the green-fingered or the would-be gardeners, more than a hectare of allotments has been earmarked to sit to the north of the Greenway.

Fencing, paths, sheds, water supply, composting facilities and a small communal building have been promised.

New entrances will open via Westfield shopping centre and Stratford High Street in Newham.

Planners see this area as tree-lined promenades which connect spaces that can be used in a variety of ways, including for cultural programmes, pop-up street food stalls and community events.

Structures used during the Games, such as temporary venues, bridges, walkways and roads, will be stripped out during the transformation.

The closure is also when the Park will be connected to the surrounding area with new roads, cycleways and foot paths.

Permanent venues, bridges and parklands will be completed ready for everyday use by residents and visitors during this time.

Sports Quiz

- 1 The manager of Scottish First Division side Dunfermline has bossed clubs in the English and Scottish top-flights. Who is he?
- 2 Juan Carlos Ferrero beat which Dutch player to win his only grand slam tennis title at the 2003 French Open?
- 3 Who was the last English winner of golf's Women's British Open?
- 4 Two players in snooker's world top 10 have MBEs. Name them.
- 5 How many consecutive fights had Ricky Hatton won before suffering his first loss against Floyd Mayweather in 2007?
- 6 Which county side does fast bowler Charlie Shreck play for?
- 7 How many majors did Sir Nick Faldo win?
- 8 Who is manager of League Two side Bristol Rovers?
- 9 Which NFL team plays at Arrowhead Stadium?
- 10 Tim Visser plays for which international rugby union side?
- 11 For which team was double Paralympic champion Alex Zanardi driving when he scored his only Formula One point at the 1993 Brazilian Grand Prix?
- 12 From which club did Manchester United sign Japanese midfielder Shinji Kagawa, above right, earlier this year?



- 13 Which NFL team will play one-off regular-season games at Wembley from 2013 to 2016?
- 14 Fly-half Freddie Burns plays for which Aviva Premiership side?
- 15 What was the name of the venue that played host to handball at London 2012?
- 16 Who is the coach of the Ukraine football team?
- 17 In which city are Catalan Dragons based?
- 18 Who won the last British medal of London 2012?
- 19 In which town will the Tour of Britain finish?
- 20 Before Andy Murray, Fred Perry was the last British male tennis player to win a grand slam singles crown at the 1936 US Open. Who did he beat in the final?
- 21 Mikko Hirvonen drives for which manufacturer in the World Rally Championship?
- 22 Batsman Nick Compton plays for which county?
- 23 Stoke midfielder Charlie Adam started his career at which club?
- 24 Hooker Shaun Lunt plays for which Stobart Super League club?
- 25 Golfer Karrie Webb is from which country?

ANSWERS

- 1 Jim Jeffries; 2. Martin Verkerke; 3. Rhinos; 25 Australia.
- 22 Somerset; 23 Rangers; 24 Leeds
- 25 Don Budge; 21 Clifton; 19
- 17 Perpignan; 18 Shelly Woods (silver)
- 15 The Copper Box; 16 Oleh Blokhin; 14 Gloucester;
- Jacksonville Jaguars; 13
- 12 Borussia Dortmund; 13
- Leeds; 12 Borussia Dortmund; 13
- 10 Scotland; 11
- 10 Scotland; 11
- 9
- 8 Mark McGhee; 9
- Williams and John Higgins; 5. 43; 6
- Karen Studds (in 2004); 4. Mark
- 1 Jim Jeffries; 2. Martin Verkerke; 3.

GOT A STORY? Contact sports editor Simon Carter on 02380 424515

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

“With the weight of the new evidence in this report, it is right for me today as Prime Minister to make a proper apology to the families of the 96 for all they have suffered over the past 23 years” - Prime Minister David Cameron apologises to the families of the 96 people who died at Hillsborough following the release of thousands of official documents that showed police and emergency services attempted to deflect the blame for the disaster onto innocent fans.

“It shames us as a country that it has taken 23 years to get to the truth of what happened at Hillsborough. The Prime Minister was right to offer an unreserved apology, but all governments during this period bear their share of responsibility for the failure to get to the truth, so we on this side also apologise to the families that we didn't do enough to help” - Labour leader Ed Miliband admits his party should have done more during its 13 years in office from 1997 to 2010 to uncover the truth about Hillsborough.

“The courage and dignity shown by the Hillsborough families and survivors is an example to all of us. Speaking as someone whose family directly suffered, I know the pain and hurt will remain. However, I hope that today's report helps bring some comfort, now that everyone knows what happened on that day” - Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard, whose 10-year-old cousin Jon-Paul Gilhooley was among the Hillsborough dead, welcomes the report's findings.

“You are expected to know the answers to everything, you are the Messiah, everything wants to know what you think, but I don't know all the answers - I am just human at the end of the day” - Bradley Wiggins lifts the lid on the pressures of being a Tour de France winner and Olympic champion.

“I'm fine but it's been hard and tough so far but, thankfully, everything is going in the right direction. I've been looked after really well by the people in the hospital and so far everything is going in the right direction” - Aston Villa midfielder Stiliyan Petrov on his recovery from acute leukaemia.

“I am just starting my fifth season at Everton, this will be one of my last. I have seen everything. In January or at the end of the season I will turn to another club or championship” - Marouane Fellaini makes clear his desire to leave Everton.

Stockbridge 10k ... Stockbridge 10k ... Stockbridge



SECOND: Kirsty Coltart (above) was second woman home behind Tori Green (top).

Order nos: 15088232 and 15088226



DONE IT: Aaron Shirley, 8, crosses the line in the Stockbridge 2K Kids race.

Order no: 15088124

It's double the fun and double the money

THE second annual Stockbridge fun run has doubled the money raised from last year's event.

The Stockbridge 10K race took place last Sunday, and 203 people took part - up from around 110 the previous year.

Although money is still being counted, the event is

understood to have raised at least £4,000. The money will be equally divided between Stockbridge Pre-school and Friends of St Peter's Church.

Andrea Zanchi, of Trafalgar Way, Stockbridge, one of the organisers, said it went extremely well.

“We were really pleased with the turnout,” she said. “We almost doubled the

number of people taking part so that was great to see.”

The route stretched through the Test Valley Way, starting and finishing in Trafalgar Way.

Mrs Zanchi added: “Everyone had a great time and we had some really lovely weather.”

The event also included a charity 2k race.

1 Thomas CUMMINGS	S1	37:16
2 Stephen TEBBETT	S	37:46
3 Ryan SNELL, Winchester	S	38:46
4 Neil RICHMOND, Soton	v40	38:57
5 Stephen CLEEVES, Lordshill	v40	40:12
6 Mark CLEWIS, AFD	V50	40:31
7 Andy LUNN	V40	40:50
8 Tim HARRIS	V40	40:50
9 Gavin LACEY, Eastleigh	V50	41:25
10 Paul LACEY	S	41:26
11 James MERREY, Datchet	S	41:39
12 Michael WARNER	S	1:44
13 Richard GREEN	S	41:53
14 Darren BATE	S	42:08
15 Mick GOULDING	S	42:17
16 Hamish MILNE	S	42:41
17 Tori GREEN	S	42:43
18 Paul THOMPSON	V40	43:02
19 Richard SMITH	S	43:25
20 Max HAMDEN	S	43:31

21 Gary MOORE, Christchurch	v40	43:49
22 Kirsty COLTHART	V35	43:52
23 John SIMMONDS, Hardley	v50	44:04
24 Dean TAYLOR	S	44:41
25 John MCKENZIE, HARDLEY	V50	44:43
26 Bertie BANFIELD	V40	44:43
27 Glyn BRICE	V50	44:46
28 Andrew MITTY	V50	44:51
29 Angus PATON	S	44:58
30 Sally BOWRY	V55	44:59
31 Ian BROOMFIELD	V50	45:14
32 Jane BUXTON, Winchester	v35	45:16
33 Mark SUDDABY	S	45:43
34 Kevin BOSSLEY	V40	45:45
35 Nick MACDONALD	S	5:49
36 Duane HOBBS	S	46:08
37 John CUTLER	S	6:09
38 Richard KOCHER	S	46:19
39 Oliver KOROL-BLURING	S	46:27
40 Treavor BAGGOTT	V40	46:29

41 Paul KIRKPATRICK	V50	46:45
42 Rob VOLPE	V40	47:31
43 Neil READ	S	47:35
44 Mark RAWSTON	V40	47:50
45 Richard WORRALL	V50	47:50
46 Andrew PALMER, Salisbury	V40	48:00
47 Amarjit SINGH	V50	48:00
48 David ELLIS	V50	48:09
49 Andrew BROOKS	V60	48:17
50 James GAYNOR	S	48:34
51 Michael CRANFIELD, AFD	V50	48:43
52 Ian LOWE	V50	48:44
53 Mark THOMPSON	V50	48:50
54 Aaron BAKER	S	48:56
55 Kelly BATE	S	48:59
56 Simon HOLMES, Blackbrook	V40	49:12
57 Dave CURRY	V40	49:14
58 Anthony GULLEDGE	V40	49:16
59 David CORNFOTH	V40	49:24
60 Michael GRIGG	V60	49:34

61 Nicola AUBREY	S	49:36
63 Allen LONG	S	50:05
64 Gordon WILSON	V70	50:10
65 David BERRY	S	50:16
66 Dave JACKSON	V40	50:19
67 Aaron KINGSTON	S	50:19
68 Marie KILLE	V45	50:24
69 Paul GUYMER	S	51:06
70 Marcus GREEN	V40	51:18
71 Sarah CAVILL	V45	51:19
72 Alex SOANE	S	51:20
73 Fay ABRAMSON	V35	51:2
74 Jason OWEN	S	51:26
75 Andrew COLVIN	V40	51:32
76 Colin JONES	S	51:54
77 Roger AITKEN	S	52:02
78 Amanda COOPER	V35	52:19
79 Mike TIDD	S	52:38
80 Ricky SNOOK	S	52:44
81 Paul PATIENCE	V40	52:52

82 Bill AGAR	V50	52:57
83 Neville DENNIF-JONES	V60	52:59
84 Peter COOPER	V40	53:12
85 Mark SNOOK	S	53:16
86 Kelvin GOWER	V40	53:47
87 Phil NORTH	S	53:54
88 Andrew SMITH	V40	54:07
89 Suzanne ANDERSON	V35	54:12
90 Darren YOUNG	V40	54:15
91 Gemma AUBREY	S	54:20
92 Justin HENDERSON	S	54:26
93 David HILL	S	54:26
94 Duncan BROWN	40	54:27
95 Alex HOWORTH	V45	54:32
96 Sarah TRAVERS	V35	54:32
97 Karen LEES	V45	54:35
98 Ben MILLER	V40	54:39
99 Katie GOULD	S	54:52
100 Jo SMITH	V35	54:53
101 David MORGAN	V40	54:55

10k ...Stockbridge 10k ...Stockbridge 10k ...



READY TO RACE: Youngsters do the Robot ahead of the Stockbridge races. Order no: 15088149



THEY'RE OFF: The fun run starts (above) and the main race gets under way (right).

Order nos: 13154223 and 15088203



CHAMP: Stockbridge 10K race winner Thomas Cummings. Order no: 15088209



SECOND: Stephen Tebbett. Order no: 15088101

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"Losing my best mate has affected everything. I can't believe how hard it is. He was the best mate I've ever had. It's sad but unfortunately it got to my marriage. I'm here and she's there. I don't know if that's it for us. All I know is that my best mate has gone. I'm struggling. I can't lie. I can't tell you how hard it is. It's the worst time in my life ever"

- Wales striker Craig Bellamy, who has moved out of the home he shared with wife Claire and their three children as he struggles to come to terms with Gary Speed's death.

"A good captain should know how to talk to his team as individuals. I don't think Vaughan ever had that in him - a major reason I've not held him in as high regard as others have. He was not as good a captain as others made out. He was captain of a truly great team in 2005"

- James Anderson does not buy into the perception of Michael Vaughan as a great England captain.

"When kids, especially girls, get to the age of 13 or 14, they don't particularly think sport's cool. It's not a girlie thing to do. Hopefully, we've changed those views here. But it's really important at school level"

- Olympic gold medalist Jessica Ennis after taking part in the London 2012 victory parade.

"I'm very, very happy that I managed to come through because if I had lost this one from two sets up, that would have been a tough one to take. I was still doubting myself right up to a few minutes before going on to play the match. It's something I have never done before. I have been in this position many times and not managed to get through"

- Andy Murray after winning the US Open.

"When you lose 6-1 and the team performs like that you have to take responsibility. I don't worry about any pressure or negativity aimed at me, I have seen it all before. This is the first time being an international manager when I have been taught a lesson and that hurts more than anything else. We have let people down but thankfully there is another one coming up"

- Wales manager Chris Coleman following their 6-1 loss to Serbia.

"I don't know. I don't know what I am doing on October 12. Maybe I eat fish or drink milk. I can't discuss this now."

- Republic of Ireland boss Giovanni Trapattoni on whether or not Damien Duff will come out of retirement.

102 Andrew HAMMOND	V40	55:14	121 Andrew MAUNDRELL	V60	58:02	141 Loraine HARRIS, Lordshill	V45	1:00:29	161 Robert EDWARDS, Victory	V60	1:03:38	181 Amanda SNOOK	V45	1:07:08
103 Teri AUBREY	S	55:18	122 Paul KEELEY	V50	58:19	142 Jodie FOX	S	1:00:29	162 Lucinda BARRY	V35	1:03:47	182 Melinda GULLEDGE	V35	1:07:19
104 Natalie FREEMAN	S	55:20	123 Anneli MCCULLAGH	V45	58:20	143 Rachel HIND	V35	1:00:36	163 Jacqueline RYE	V45	1:03:57	183 Theresa CLARK, Lordshill	V45	1:07:38
105 Keith BOWRY	V60	55:31	124 Sarah O'GORMAN	V35	58:28	144 Mark TIGWELL	V40	1:00:46	164 Hannah LACEY	S	1:04:06	184 Nigel DOWDING	V60	1:07:49
106 Kate CHESTERMAN	S	56:06	125 Stephen HILL	S	58:43	145 Paul ARTHUR	V40	1:00:54	165 Samantha BAKER	V35	1:04:12	185 Penny FURLONG	V55	1:07:56
107 Kulivinder GIL	V40	56:09	126 Jon SHURLOCK	V40	58:47	146 Kathleen MOORE	V35	1:01:04	166 Catherine SPINKS	S	1:04:30	186 Angie TUBBY	V45	1:07:58
108 Rebecca GREGORY-CLEEVES, Lordshill	V35	56:11	127 Philip BEAGLE	V50	58:54	147 Chris TYLER-SMITH	V40	1:01:50	167 Deborah MALIN	S	1:04:46	187 Joanna FORDER, Eastleigh	V45	1:07:58
109 Graham MACKEN	V40	56:29	128 Tom MITTY	S	59:05	148 Alice DEVAL	S	1:02:11	168 Debra BOTTEL-GILL	V45	1:04:47	188 Steve TILL, Basingstoke	V50	1:08:54
110 Nigel SMITH	V40	56:51	129 Terry FRENCH	V70	59:21	149 Julie SALT	V45	1:02:20	169 Andrew BROWNING	S	1:04:50	189 Carol THOMAS	V65	1:09:46
111 Joanna BAINBRIDGE	S	56:53	130 Becky BOYES	S	59:24	150 Ed BARNES	S	1:02:23	170 Serena BALDWIN, Lordshill	V35	1:04:56	190 Colin STOKES	V40	1:11:11
112 Roberta HEAD	V35	56:54	131 Karen BAGGOTT	V35	59:31	151 Tony BARNES	V60	1:02:23	171 Anna COLES	V45	1:04:59	191 Vivienne RAINS	V35	1:12:05
113 Kim MCFARLAND	V45	57:01	132 Matthew MAJOR	S	59:34	152 Janet THOMPSON	V45	1:02:24	172 Sam COGGINS	V45	1:04:59	192 Bridget MAIN	V45	1:12:39
114 Ian WARWICK	V40	57:02	133 David MAJOR	V40	59:35	153 Alan LAWRENCE	V40	1:02:29	173 Nikki PAGAN	V45	:05:02	193 Helen BROOMFIELD	V55	1:13:02
115 Chris BROWN, Lordshill	V40	57:17	134 Alan ELSEY	V40	59:36	154 Neil PROWSE	V50	1:02:30	174 Claire SPOFFORTH, BMF	S	1:05:27	194 Ali SPARKES	V45	1:13:02
116 Mike BLACKMORE	V50	57:35	135 Rachel SUTCH	V45	59:42	155 Laura BROCKLEBANK	S	1:02:32	175 Kate HARRISON	S	1:05:41	195 Kathryn PILLAR	V35	1:14:01
117 Mark STOCKWELL	V50	57:41	136 Simon BLURING	V50	59:47	156 Jonathan BURNAGE	S	1:02:34	176 Sharon OLIVER	V35	1:06:10	196 Susan COOPER	V65	1:14:55
118 Jane WARWICK	V35	57:44	137 Melissa SUMMERS	S	59:51	157 Tim INGRAM	V40	1:02:51	177 Eddie OLIVER	V40	1:06:11	197 Rachel NOBLE	V35	1:17:19
119 Alice LAWE	V35	57:44	138 Philip WAITE	V35	1:00:17	158 Matthew MARTYN	V40	1:03:04	178 Anne STEPHENS	V35	1:06:15	198 Kirsty HOLLOWAY, Totton	S	1:18:24
120 Louise STEWART	V35	58:02	139 Luana COX	V35	1:00:26	159 Terri MAYES, Blackbrook	V45	1:03:07	179 Stephen CAMBURN	V40	1:06:30	199 Alison DAUBNEY	V35	1:21:22
			140 Eva DURHAM	V35	1:00:27	160 Kathryn EARLS	S	1:03:27	180 Gary DAUBNEY	V40	1:06:43	200 Matthew BEARD	V40	1:22:58

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